

Controversial city bid goes ahead despite opposition

By Mathew Beech

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MEDWAY'S efforts to win city status now rests with a panel of Government ministers after it submitted its controversial bid, which has split opinion across the towns.

The 46-page dossier was sent off last Monday ahead of the Friday deadline.

Local authorities from across the UK have been invited to apply for city status to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012, with the winner expected to be announced in June next year.

The Medway bid will face competition from Reading, Blackpool, Luton and Milton Keynes, as well as others.

Leader of the council Rodney Chambers said: "I fully believe we have the strongest possible case for Medway to become Britain's newest city in 2012."

"Medway already has all the key city credentials: a population of 255,000, four universities, a famous cathedral, a Football League club, superb transport and trade links, a world-famous historic dockyard, a multi-billion pound programme of regeneration, rural areas, more free festivals a year than anywhere else in the south east, and a great

river setting. In addition, Medway also has, most importantly, one very significant asset – it's people."

Rochester lost its city status in 1998 due to an administrative blunder. However, many are opposed to the bid, claiming it is a waste of cash and residents should have been asked.

Simon Marchant from Medway Green Party said: "We are unhappy that it has gone through. We are not against the bid as a party but there has been no proper consultation, which is why we want a referendum."

"The people don't want it and there is no evidence that it would bring any benefits economically to the area. They are also opposed to it because they are from their own towns, they have their own accents and their own history."

The City of Rochester Society, which was formed in 1967, also believe the bid is flawed and lacks public support.

Society secretary Christine Furninger said: "When we found out Rochester lost its city status we were shocked and dismayed and it is not the type of thing people will forget."

"We are not against the city bid perse, but if the city had Rochester in the title we'd be happy."



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HISTORY

Dickens site to open to all

CHARLES Dickens' home at Gad's Hill Place, Higham, is to be made open to the public as part of a major redevelopment of the school which currently owns the site.

Currently used as part of Gad's Hill school, it will be vacated after a £10m new building is erected.

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CHARITY

Race for Life's call for ladies

POPULAR annual charity event and cancer fundraiser Race for Life is urging more women to take part amid concerns they may not hit targets this year.

The event, which takes place in Gillingham as well as other venues across the county, helps raise vital funds into researching a cure.

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ELECTRICITY

Pylon threat to our county

HUGE swathes of countryside could be dominated by towering electricity pylons if the Government pushes ahead with a controversial relaxation of planning rules.

Now green campaigners fear such a move could forever ruin parts of the Kent countryside.

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News

ENERGY

New wave of pylons a blight on our landscape

By Marijke Cox

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HUGE swathes of countryside could be dominated by towering electricity pylons if the Government pushes ahead with a controversial relaxation of planning rules.

Green campaigners fear large parts of Kent – including Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) – could be destroyed if electricity companies take advantage of the move and hack through areas such as the Downs and the Weald with new developments.

It follows an announcement by the Government setting out proposals that could see The Holford Rules, criteria drawn up in 1959 aiming to protect land from pylon development, overruled.

If the proposals go ahead, planning inspectors will only have to "bear the rules in mind" as they examine applications for overhead electricity lines.

The National Grid, which is responsible for offering new connections to network operators that want to generate electricity or need a high voltage supply, said there were no current overhead schemes in Kent, but would not comment on future plans.

Chairman of Protect Kent, the county's branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, Richard Knox-Johnston said there were two major power lines planned: one running from Rowden near Croydon through west Kent to Lydd in Shepway in 2017-18, and the other from Canterbury to Richborough in 2019-20.

"We've been in touch with the Na-



NO MORE: Campaigners say new pylons could spell disaster for our countryside

tional Grid, but they're not being clear about what the plans are," he said.

"These pylons are 150ft high and it is likely they will be placed in AONBs and across beautiful countryside. They will cover a huge part of Kent and blight the landscape."

"The Localism Bill is going through Parliament which appears to give local people more say about what goes on where they live, but this conflicts that."

Protect Kent believes the cables should be laid underground, something the National Grid claims will cost £22 million per kilometre instead of the equivalent overhead lines of £1.8m per kilometre. But Mr Johnston said research carried out by Protect Kent found the

true cost of underground cables was £3.5m per kilometre.

He added: "We shall be forming a campaign group to stop these pylons."

The idea of underground cables was supported by Professor Sir Robert Worcester, Maidstone resident and founder of research company MORI, in a 1997 report Wires Underground for the Millennium.

In the paper he said the former Millennium Commission, which invested £2 billion of Lottery money across the UK, should spend funds on burying cables underground.

"Every electric wire, every telephone wire, every guy wire and stay that blights nearly every view, obscures sights of (otherwise) scenic beauty, every (nearly) picturesque village, and stately home," he said. "We put up with wires strung along motorways and highways, in towns and villages, running into almost every home."

"And it isn't necessary, as has been shown by several villages such as the Sussex village of Westmeston, helped by their electricity company and BT and homeowners who have taken the initiative to act on their own."

He stated that should cables be buried underground this generation would be remembered for their gift to the next millennium for years to come.

"For once the wires were underground, who would ever think of putting them overhead again?"

But the National Grid argued that underground cables would be too costly.

He said overhead lines were also much quicker to repair.

EDUCATION

'Survival of fittest' fears for schools

EDUCATION experts have warned that a Government plan paving the way for easy expansion of oversubscribed schools could spell the demise of less-popular schools.

It follows an announcement by education secretary Michael Gove of a potential change in admission requirements. Currently, schools must seek permission from local authorities if they want to expand by more than 27 pupils a year.

Mr Gove said the move would put pressure on underperforming schools to raise standards, while good schools were able to grow.

The proposed changes could see intense pressure eased off many sought-after schools in the county where hundreds of pupils were turned away from their first-choice secondary.

The pressure is most acute at Kent's grammar schools.

Information from Kent Independent Education Advice showed demand for placements at the Leigh Technology Academy in Dartford was highest, with 199 first-choice applicants turned away.

Next most popular was Tonbridge Grammar, Westlands in Sittingbourne, and then Dartford Grammar School.

Although potential changes could see an end to admissions pressure, there are fears that underachieving or less popular schools could end up closing due to lack of finances where funding is allocated based on pupil numbers.

Kent County Council cabinet member for education, learning and skills, Cllr Sarah Hohler, questioned the results of such a change.

"I have read the articles that suggest it could be made easier for popular schools to expand, as part of the revised code," she said. "While that sounds like an obvious solution to the problem of oversubscribed schools, it inevitably has an impact on that school and on neighbouring ones."

"Does the popular school have the physical capacity to expand? Will the 'less popular' school down the road suffer as a result? Those and many other questions will have to be answered."

"The role of local authorities is changing to one where we are the champions

for pupils and parents."

Gravesend-based independent education advisor Peter Read also warned of the potential impacts.

"Mr Gove appears happy to see this survival of the fittest model apply in education, no matter that there will be many children in shrinking schools, whose lives will be blighted by the actions of others," he said.

"His solution for such schools is either to close them and reopen them as academies, or else see them transfer to other local successful and expanding schools."

"Sadly, there are plenty of examples to show that this idea will not work."

He said eight old-style academies had more than a third of September's Year Seven spaces empty.

"Indeed two old-style academies with plush multi-million pound premises rising are more than half empty – Skinners Kent Academy in Tunbridge Wells and New Line Learning in Maidstone," he said. "KCC has argued that if schools fail to attract numbers they are indeed failing, so what is to happen to these two schools?"

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CHARITY

Save others from pain of heartache by racing

By Chris Britcher

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A MOTHER-of-two who lost her own mother to breast cancer and was then diagnosed with the illness herself, has urged women to take part in this year's Race for Life event in a bid to help fight the disease.

Paula Currie, of St Mary's Island in Chatham, has since been given the all-clear, but said helping raise vital funds would ensure others have the future her mother "was robbed of".

The Race for Life event is an annual fundraiser organised by Cancer Research UK to raise vital funds into researching all types of cancer. But it admits this year numbers may fail to hit their targets.

Mrs Currie, who will be taking part in the race, explains: "Mum was diagnosed with breast cancer when she was 39 and again at 54, which she succumbed to, so I dreaded my own 39th birthday and was relieved to get past it safely."

But four years later her worst fears came true when she was diagnosed with the same disease in April, 2010.

The student welfare tutor at Chatham Grammar School for Boys added: "After mum's death I'd been very breast aware and always checked myself for lumps. I'd even asked for screenings but I was told I was too young."

"I found a lump at 41 which was benign but as a result was given regular



mammograms from then on. I had one on my 43rd birthday and two weeks later was diagnosed with cancer."

She opted for a double mastectomy and has now been given the all clear.

Mrs Currie, along with stepmom Rosie Bushell, will be taking part in the Tesco and Cancer Research UK Race For Life at Gillingham's Capstone Farm Country Park at 11am on June 12.

She added: "Screening helped to give me a future, but my mum was robbed of hers."

Race for Life 2011 is the UK's largest women-only fundraising event series where women walk, jog or run 5k to raise money to help beat cancer.

Hayley Reynolds, Race for Life event manager for Gillingham, said: "We hope more women than ever before will take part. We need our Race for Life regulars, as well as women who took part years ago, to join together with many new faces to help save more lives."

Women and girls can enter any of the Cancer Research UK Race for Life



JOIN TOGETHER: Women of all ages and abilities are asked to Race for Life

events at www.raceforlife.org or by calling 0871 641 1111.

Paula's fundraising page can be found at: www.raceforlifesponsorme.org/paulacurrie0467

LITERATURE

Dickens' home to open to public

CHARLES Dickens' former home Gad's Hill Place is to be opened to the public for the first time since his death in 1870.

The Grade I-listed Georgian property in Higham, near Rochester, is where the author wrote such classics as Great Expectations and A Tale of Two Cities.

It has been used by Gad's Hill independent school, the site's owner, for teaching since the 1920s.

Next week, the school will start work on a scheme to develop a new £10 million building in the grounds of the old house – paving the way for Gad's Hill Place to be turned into a museum and world heritage centre in 2012 – a project which is expected to attract visitors from across the globe.

The ground-breaking for the new build at the Gravesend Road site, will take place on June 9 – the 141st anniversary of Charles Dickens' death.

Headmaster of the school, which caters for pupils from three to 16-years-old, David Craggs, has long campaigned for pupils to vacate the historic and increasingly fragile 18th century house

and for Dickens' home to be opened to visitors on a permanent basis.

He said: "While it is a real, and extremely rare, honour to be able to learn English in what was Charles Dickens' bedroom, it's no longer practical for our growing number of pupils to use this building."

"I will miss the unique privilege of running a school from the great man's own study, but eagerly await the completion of the new school buildings as they will provide a cornerstone for future success and will be better suited to educating children in the 21st century."

"There will be better resources and facilities for the pupils, with cutting edge technology and up-to-date learning rooms. All the pupils, parents and staff are looking forward to being in their new home by 2012."

The heritage centre is due to open in 2012 to coincide with the 200th anniversary of Dickens' birth.

Marion Dickens, trustee of the centre and Dickens' great-great-granddaughter, said: "Since the house was

turned into a school, public access to it has been very limited. Now, for the first time, people who love the books will be able to visit his home."

Clague Architects have been deeply involved in this scheme since its outset in 2006.

Andrew Clague said: "Phase one is to begin now and there is a further phase to complete the work."

"When all is completed, the school will have exceptional premises and the public in the Gravesend area will have access to a house that 'creaks' with its Dickens' history."

"The architectural idea is that the school will always be closely linked with the mansion and it forms part of the key view on entering the school. The mansion environs will be cleared of buildings that spoil its relationship with the countryside and it will be available to the public."

Dickens lived at Gad's Hill Place from 1856 until his death 14 years later in what is now the school dining room. At the time he was working on his final novel, The Mystery of Edwin Drood.

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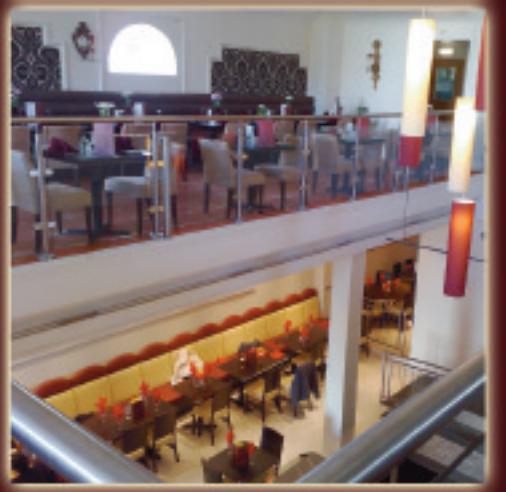
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POTHOLE

Highways chief admits to vast shortfall in funding needed to fix county's roads

By **Marijke Cox**

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COUNTY Hall's highways member has admitted there is a huge gap in the funding needed to bring Kent's "knackered" roads up to standard.

Cabinet member for environment, highways and waste, Cllr Bryan Sweetland, said the difference between available funding and the estimated £350 million needed to bring the 5,000-mile network up to a good condition was vast, but stressed the authority was doing all it could to stay on top of maintenance and repairs.

Many of the problems were caused by freezing winter weather which left Kent with cracked, potholed roads.

"We're making sure essential work is carried out, but we're looking at roads overall and how we can make sure conditions don't get worse," he said.

"Kent County Council received an additional grant of £6.5m – the way we are spending that is £2.5m on pothole repairs and £4m on roads overall, not just damage repair."

His comments followed the release of



SLOWING DOWN: Hundreds of millions of pounds are needed to fix Kent's roads

figures by Kent's Labour Party which showed that, based on KCC estimates, the latest amount needed to tackle the backlog of work was £430m.

Following the squeeze in spending, KCC's highways budget for 2011-12 fell by £10m to £68m.

According to KCC, some £250m is required this financial year alone to bring roads up to standard.

Cllr Sweetland said: "There is a

huge gap between a £6.5m grant and the amount needed," he said. "But, not wishing to get political, the roads haven't just got knackered since the Coalition was formed."

Cllr Sweetland said a new contractor was taking over from the current company, Ringways, in September which would see monthly road maintenance targets introduced.

"We've had the same contractor for

the last five years but a new company is taking over in September following a tendering process," he said.

"The difference in this contract is we're looking at it from a business point of view. We will set performance criteria. The company will have to meet monthly performance targets.

"It will work on the basis that if they don't perform, they don't get paid."

But Kent's Labour Party warned the state of the roads would only get worse unless a radical funding model is introduced.

Labour's shadow transport minister, John Woodcock, accused Government of having no serious long term plan to get roads back into shape.

"These new figures reveal the worsening state of roads in Kent as a result of the Government's cuts," he said.

"Motorists and cyclists are already furious that ministers have pretended to give councils extra money to repair potholes when all they've done is replace a fraction of the money they'd axed from road maintenance budgets.

"Instead of continually patching up knackered roads with a bucket of tar

we need a proper strategic plan which could save a fortune in the long term.

"What is needed is a radical look at new funding models, councils working together and better engagement with the private sector to tackle this."

In a report this week the Audit Commission warned KCC not to spend money on the worst roads but to fix roads before they fall into disrepair.

Cllr Sweetland said the shortage of funding for highways could be tackled by changes in laws for foreign lorries where each year the UK sees some £475m of lost revenue.

"The lorries are fitted with belly tanks so they fill up in Luxembourg with 1,000 litres of fuel, then come here but don't fill up in the UK," he said. "Kent bears the brunt because of the lorries coming through our ports.

"I would call on Government to see belly tanks outlawed in the UK. With money saved we can bring roads up to standard and come up with creative solutions to tackle problems such as Operation Stack."

■ To report a road problem contact bryan.sweetland@kent.gov

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EDUCATION

Grammar school free travel reprieve for poorer families

By **Marijke Cox**

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EDUCATION chiefs have made changes to plans to scrap free school transport for faith and grammar pupils to continue to allow poorer families to benefit from subsidised travel.

Current proposals by Kent County Council look to axe free home-to-school transport from September, 2012, for children attending selective or denominational schools further away than their nearest appropriate school.

But cabinet member for education, learning and skills Cllr Sarah Hohler told KoS the authority was now looking to change the details and keep the free travel for low-income families and pupils who get free school meals.

"We want to encourage disadvantaged pupils to go to grammar schools," she said. "A decision on the plans will be made before July and it is likely that this will be agreed."

KCC said it had a legal duty to provide free home-to-school travel – costing £14 million a year and worth more than £450 for each child – when the nearest, appropriate school was more



REVIEW: The new proposals have been put forward to encourage disadvantaged children to go to grammar schools

than two miles away for children under eight and three miles for older children.

But in many cases parents opt for grammar or church schools that are not their nearest and the authority, despite not being legally obliged, has paid for the travel.

Due to financial pressures, the authority proposed to stop providing support for such pupils starting school on September 1, 2012, although this would not affect those already receiving the free travel.

Low-income families were included in

the proposals, but Cllr Hohler said plans are now being changed to ensure that poorer parents who wish to send their children to grammar or faith schools which are not their nearest school would receive free travel.

Cllr Hohler said pupils who do not qualify for the free travel should consider the Freedom Bus Pass.

The scheme, which was introduced in 2008, gives 11 to 16-year-olds cheap travel to and from school as well as outside hours and weekends. More than 26,000 pupils use the pass.

But the £50 annual cost was doubled to £100 in February, sparking fierce opposition from parents.

Children receiving free school meals, however, continue to pay £50 while looked-after children and young carers get the pass for free.

An online petition was launched by angry parents who said it was unfair to put up the price by so much. But with 5,633 signatures, the petition fell short of the 12,000 needed to force a debate.

Cllr Hohler said: "The cost works out as 47p a day to travel anywhere they want to go in Kent – this is not a large amount of money."

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OLYMPICS

Call to nominate Olympic torchbearers for Kent relay

By Marijke Cox

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THE SEARCH is on for Kent's most inspirational people to carry the Olympic torch through the county's streets when it arrives in the UK in 2012.

Olympic organisers are urging residents to nominate people who have made a difference to the lives of others in the 2012 Moment to Shine public nomination campaign.

The torch is due to arrive on British shores at Land's End, on May 18, next year, marking the start of the 8,000-mile UK relay ahead of the Games.

It will arrive in Dover for an overnight stop on July 18 and travel on through Kent to Maidstone the next day. On July 22, the torch will spend the night in Bexley.

Celebrations will be held in the towns, which were chosen as three of 66 to host the flame overnight.

The London 2012 Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LO-



SYMBOL: Torch will visit Kent

COG) is now on the hunt to find 8,000 inspirational people to take part in the relay, where each torchbearer will carry the torch for a mile through the streets of the UK.

A LOCOG spokesman said: "We don't have a particular person or type of story in mind – we're excited to see who's out there. It might be a friend who gave up a lot to help you through a really hard time."

"We all know someone who gives their all – and inspires

others as they do so. Let's give them their moment to shine."

For one Kent resident, the possible honour of carrying the legendary torch has already been bestowed upon him.

Len Arnold, manager of Europa Gym Club in Erith, was personally nominated by chairman of LOCOG Lord Sebastian Coe.

Mr Arnold, who received a Pro-Active London award for his contribution to sport earlier this year, said: "It was a real honour and a complete surprise to be nominated by Lord Coe for the role of torchbearer.

"It will be a historic day for the borough when the torch comes through and it would be amazing for anyone to be part of that."

Lord Coe added: "Carrying the Olympic Flame is an incredible honour and people now have the opportunity to reward someone inspirational."

To nominate someone go to www.london2012.com/games/olympic-torch-relay/carrying-the-olympic-flame/nominate-a-torchbearer.php.

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POLITICS

Lib Dem bigwig vows to rebuild party's support

By Steve Knight

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THE deputy leader of the Liberal Democrats has moved to reassure Kent's disheartened members that their party is "down but not out".

Simon Hughes admitted to KoS that public anger over university tuition fees had contributed to a collapse of the vote at this month's local elections, and that he understood why so many Lib Dem supporters had become resentful recently.

However, Nick Clegg's right-hand man has promised better times are ahead and he called on party members to pull together and win back support.

Mr Hughes said: "We did not have good results in Kent and I'm sure the tuition fees issue didn't help. We need to own up to that because we didn't handle things very well at the time and now we've paid the price.

"I want to say thanks to all those

councillors who lost their seats because we have a very good tradition of campaigning councillors in Kent, and although we've been knocked down, we're not out.

"It's time to rebuild because we know we should do better in this part of the country, there's no reason why we can't be big players across the county again.

"You have to carry the can much more when you're in government than when you're in opposition, but we're starting to plan a return match so we can win back support at the expense of both Labour and the Conservatives."

Mr Hughes made headlines last December when, along with seven other Lib Dem MPs, he abstained during a crucial vote on Government proposals to raise university tuition fees to a maximum of £9,000.

The vote was particularly controversial for the party as every one of its MPs had previously signed an NUS pledge promis-



WE'LL BE BACK: Lib Dem Simon Hughes

ing to vote against the increases.

Ironically Mr Hughes is now the Government's 'advocate for access to education', and was this week visiting MidKent College in Gillingham to explain to young people how tuition fees will work.

He said: "It's not something I support or voted for, and I'm very open about that. That's why I hope I can explain the new system more credibly."

Last month the University of Kent announced it was planning to increase tuition fees to the maximum £9,000, claiming it was so it could continue to deliver "high-quality teaching and first-rate facilities".

But Mr Hughes told KoS the price-hike was not a foregone conclusion.

"Let's see if they get it approved," he said. "They will only be allowed to increase their fees to that level if they show they have policies to reach out to kids from less-advantaged backgrounds. If they do then it will be a good thing."

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SCHOOL LIBRARY SERVICES

Picture: AGNUS BREMNER

Library cuts deny children best life start, says author

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

AWARD-winning children's author Philip Ardagh has joined a growing number of writers to have condemned cuts to school library services.

Mr Ardagh, 49, from Tunbridge Wells, has written more than 70 books including the hugely-successful Eddie Dickens series, and in 2005 he collaborated with Sir Paul McCartney to create the former Beatles star's only children's novel.

But the eccentric author has spoken out after research by the Times Educational Supplement (TES) revealed that services providing books to up to 600,000 pupils in England have been axed in the past year.

He said: "I appreciate money is tight for everyone but it's a false economy to make cuts to school libraries because it will have a negative effect on

the rest of a child's life.

"A well-stocked library with a professional librarian is such an important service. Volunteers and teachers do the best job they can but they can't provide the same kind of knowledge as the experts.

"If you open the world of reading to children and point them in the right direction then you're giving them a better start in life, so my heart sinks when I hear about such things being cut."

"It makes me want to pull my beard, stamp my size-16 boot on the ground and foam at the mouth."

Mr Ardagh, who was educated at the King's School in Canterbury, won the 2009 Roald Dahl Funny Prize for his "disgusting and horrible" novel Grubtown Tales: Stinking Rich and Just Plain Stinky.

Other authors to have spoken out against the cuts include Philip Pullman - whose book

Northern Lights was turned into the 2007 film the Golden Compass - and former children's laureate Michael Rosen.

School library services not only provide fresh stocks of books to schools; they also offer a range of other resources and help organise visits from authors.

But according to the TES, just 85 councils out of more than 150 with responsibility for schools run their own dedicated service.

Kent County Council was one of the authorities criticised for having already scrapped its school library provision, but the authority says it is simply providing access to books in a different way.

"We now offer free loans to all Kent schools through our libraries under the new 'school ticket' system," said Cllr Graham Gibbons, cabinet member for customer and community services.

"This was introduced last

year to replace the Kent Schools Library Advisory Service, which many schools found difficult to access and had to pay for.

"Schools can now borrow up to 100 books and multiple copies of a book can also be made available by reserving in advance."

■ See yourcanterbury.co.uk for news and sports.

NECESSITY: Philip Ardagh says school library services are vital in opening the door to reading for youngsters and giving them a better start in life



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EMPLOYMENT

Plea for government help to create turbines jobs boost

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

GOVERNMENT ministers have been warned not to waste the opportunity presented by plans to build a huge wind turbine factory at the Port of Sheerness.

Earlier this month, Danish firm Vestas Wind Systems announced it had identified an area at the old docks as the ideal place for a production centre to build its new supersize turbines, with the potential to create about 2,000 jobs and a huge boost to the local economy.

Yet the deal is reliant on support from the Government in helping to generate business from wind farm companies.

This includes assurances of dedication to the wind industry and that planning applications for offshore projects and the enabling supporting will be made quickly to increase investor confidence.

Sittingbourne and Sheppey MP Gordon Henderson delivered a speech on the subject in Parliament this week.

He asked: "What is the Government doing to ensure investment like that proposed by Vestas comes to the UK and does not go to countries such as Germany or France, which no doubt would



FUTURE: The wind turbine factory would create approximately 2,000 jobs

welcome it with open arms?

"Why is the Government opting for an electricity market reform package that appears to be focused on getting new nuclear power stations off the ground, rather than putting more emphasis on getting investment into renewables?

"How does the Government intend to create a level playing field so that we in Sittingbourne and Sheppey can secure Vestas' investment for an area of high deprivation located in the so-called wealthy South East?"

The new V164-7.0MW turbine is

twice as powerful as those that sit off the coast of Thanet, and its blade span is the same as the London Eye.

Should Vestas go ahead with its plans to manufacture the model in Sheerness, it would provide a much needed-boost to a Kent economy still reeling from the news that pharmaceutical giant Pfizer is to leave Sandwich next year.

Responding to Mr Henderson's questions on Tuesday, David Heath – deputy leader of the House of Commons – said the Government was "very keen" on assisting the investment and would do everything possible to make it a reality.

He said he would pass the questions to the relevant minister.

Mr Henderson told KoS afterwards that he was cautiously optimistic that Vestas would come to Kent.

He said: "None of these things are ever easy and it's going to be up to Swale council, Kent County Council and myself to lobby Government to ensure things are happening."

"The critical point is that the Government needs to put in place various mechanisms that will give customers the confidence Vestas needs to go ahead and build these turbines."

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News

CHILD PROTECTION

£2k signing on bonuses for new social workers

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

'GOLDEN hello' payments of £2,000 could be used to entice social workers to join Kent's crisis-hit child protection team.

The bonus is one of a range of incentives proposed by County Hall in an attempt to turn the struggling department around, with another being lump sum bonuses of up to £3,000 a year for frontline social workers who meet their targets.

Last November the council was rated "inadequate" for its safeguarding and looked-after children's services following an Ofsted inspection, with staff shortages one of the areas flagged up for concern.

The proposed incentives, which were agreed by cabinet members on Monday, are expected to cost more than £4 million over two years.

Cabinet member for specialist children's services Cllr Jenny Whittle said: "We need to increase our numbers of home-

grown and experienced social workers. Although we've got the vacancies down to a manageable level, we're still very reliant on agency staff and recruits from overseas.

"Home-grown talent are more likely to stay in Kent on the basis that we support them.

"We don't want them to get the experience here before leaving to join another authority that pays better money.

"Social workers do the job because they have a passion for helping vulnerable children, but at the end of the day we've all got bills to pay."

KCC has had difficulties recruiting and retaining children's social workers over the past two to three years, with vacancy levels reaching a peak of about 25 per cent at the beginning of 2010.

But the council hopes to recruit 110 additional staff this year, while 248 other more experienced workers are to receive a 2.5 per cent salary increase to ensure their pay stays

ahead of newly-qualified staff.

David Lloyd, secretary of the Kent branch of the Unison public sector union, said KCC needs to do more to retain staff, adding: "There's a lack of morale but throwing money at a problem doesn't always solve it."

Areas of particular concern raised following last year's Ofsted inspection included the management and supervision of services, low educational attainment of looked-after children, high numbers of cases not receiving quality assessments, and social workers with high caseloads.

But Cllr Whittle said turning the child protection service around was the council's number one priority.

She added: "We could have an unannounced inspection at any time and I think if Ofsted came back tomorrow they would see evidence of lots of change. Everything's looking very positive and we are getting there, but we can't afford to take our eye off the ball."



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ENVIRONMENT

Beaches' water test results announced

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

EIGHT of Kent's celebrated bays have been stripped of their top water quality marks in the latest good beach guide.

They had their 'recommended' status – the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) top result – replaced with a basic pass.

Deal Castle beach, Minnis Bay, Ramsgate Main Sands, St Mildred's Bay, Stone bay, Westgate Bay, Whitstable, and Margate – The Bay, all slipped down in the MCS table.

But five which received basic marks last year – Minster Leas, Sheerness, Leysdown-on-Sea, Folkestone, and Margate Fulmar Rock, received the top status, rising to recommended.

They joined 10 of Kent's beaches which were named as having met the top European guideline standard, with all water samples passed and a continuous treatment of sewage discharges seen.



Picture: PAUL JERREAT

STILL GREAT: St Margaret's Bay maintained its top quality marks

Some 30 beaches in Kent were tested for the Marine Conservation Society's Good Beach Guide 2011, with 15 recommended and 15 achieving a basic pass. Not one received a guideline pass, the second highest mark, or a fail.

Ten maintained top quality marks, including Botany Bay and Joss Bay in Thanet, Sandgate in Folkestone, and St Margaret's Bay near Dover.

MCS coastal pollution officer Rachael Wyatt said from 2015 beaches will be classified using stricter European water quality standards due to the revision of

the Bathing Water Directive. She said: "The next few years are critical as the quality of the UK's bathing waters can play a vital role in the economic recovery of our seaside resorts."

Making sure beaches are ready to comply with the revised derivative is a huge opportunity to attract increasing numbers of tourists."

This month three of Kent's beaches, Botany Bay, Joss Bay and Westbrook Bay, received Blue Flags – a prestigious award reserved for top coastal destinations – but six lost their flags on the Isle of Thanet.

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Tunbridge Wells and Maidstone borough councils' joint fraud team successfully prosecuted 12 people last year – saving the public purse more than £1.4 million.

Penalties included fines, which adds 30 per cent to the amount they have to repay.

Conditional discharges were given out by the courts, and a total of more than 550 hours of unpaid work was also handed out to fraudsters.

TRADING STANDARDS

Charity bags clothes alert

TRADING Standards have told residents to be wary after suspect leaflets have been distributed asking for clothing donations in support of the Breakthrough Breast Cancer charity bearing the pink ribbon logo.

The leaflet asks you to put clothes into plastic bags and stick the leaflet onto the bag for collection on a specified day.

A spokesman said: "We would encourage people who want to donate unwanted clothing and household items to take them direct to the charity shop. This will ensure the full value of the donations will go to a legitimate cause."

COMPETITION

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THE COOPERTIRES British F3 International Series is one of the most important racing championships for anyone who wants to make it to Formula 1 – and it's heading to Brands Hatch on June 18-19.

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AFGHANISTAN

Gurkhas' operation to blow up Taliban explosives haul

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

FOLKESTONE-based Gurkhas took part in a blitz on a Taliban haul of explosives and blew up bombs that could have killed a hundred British soldiers.

More than 800kg of explosives were obliterated in a controlled blast in the Afghan desert after the operation which involved the 2nd Battalion, Royal Gurkha Rifles, the Afghan Uniformed Police (AUP), and British troops from the specialist Counter-Improvised Explosive Device Task-force.

The bombs had been seized in a series of operations in the Lashkar Gar area and were destroyed alongside 60 detonators, anti-personnel mines, and other explosives-related material.

Navy Petty Officer Gareth Buffrey said: "Disposing of this amount of HME (home made explosives) is not easy – there are obvious risks involved and it can be dangerous. But this



CONTROLLED EXPLOSION: A counter-explosive expert helps Capt Muhammed (right) adjust a fuse before blowing up the bombs

day's success was down to the enthusiasm of the AUP, their willingness to learn and the support of the Gurkhas."

Early on Saturday morning, the Afghans and their mentors loaded up their vehicles with the explosives and drove four kilometres out of the district centre to begin their task.

With so much to get rid of, the ordnance was separated into two large piles.

The Gurkhas then showed the Afghans how to prepare it so that it could be destroyed in a safe and controlled way.

After detonating the explosion a plume of smoke erupted 60ft into the air.

The two battalions of the Royal Gurkha Rifles are based at Shorncliffe Barracks in Folkestone and have served with distinction in Afghanistan since the start of operations.

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ARSON

Heath is hit by spate of firebug attacks

FIREFIGHTERS have been called to 18 deliberate fires on Dartford Heath since April 1, where grass, undergrowth, heathland or rubbish has been set alight.

For most incidents, one fire engine was sent to the scene but some have required two or three fire engines, and crews fear it is only a matter of time before the dry conditions mean a blaze burns out of control and someone is hurt.

Officers say the fires, mostly started by youths, can easily spread out of control.

CRIME

Two brothers in court over catalytic thefts

A PAIR of brothers have been charged with conspiracy to steal catalytic converters following a series of thefts from cars across Kent, but mainly Maidstone, over the last two months.

Patrick Oliver Stokes, 23, of the Farmlands, Northolt, Middlesex, and William Stokes, 26, of Millway Gardens, Northolt, Middlesex, are charged with conspiracy to steal from vehicles.

The pair have been remanded following a hearing at Maidstone Magistrates until their trial at Maidstone Crown Court on June 3.

POLITICS

We're not in a coalition say the 'cross-party working' councillors

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

A LABOUR councillor whose party holds just one seat less than the ruling Conservatives says his is the strongest opposition group in the country.

No party won enough seats to take overall control of Thanet council at the local elections earlier this month, with the Tories clinching 27, Labour taking 26 and the remaining three going to independents.

Tory Cllr Bob Bayford was this week re-elected as council leader by one vote. But Labour leader Cllr Clive Hart said he was in the best possible position to hold the Tories to account.

"Given the circumstances – and they are pretty unique – I can live with it," he said. "I don't think there's anyone in the country who can provide a stronger opposition than us."



LEADER: Cllr Bob Bayford

While the council continues to be led by the Conservatives, the new chairman Cllr Doug Clark and vice-chairman Cllr Kay Dark are both Labour. Three of the council's main committees will be chaired by independents.

Described as "cross-party working", Cllr Hart stressed the new arrangement was nothing like the Coalition government.

He said: "I wouldn't want people to draw any parallels because we will still be working separately from the Tories."

Prior to the elections all 12 district and borough councils – in addition to Kent County Council and Medway Council – were under Tory control.

But now Gravesham council is run by Labour, while Thanet's Tories cannot claim to have full control of the authority.

Cllr Bayford said: "We recognise all three political groups have to work with each other and I have every intention of doing that for the greater good of the community."

Independent Cllr Tom King, chairman of the overview and scrutiny panel, said: "Most people wish there was a little less party politics in local government and more sorting out the issues people really care about."

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ADULT SOCIAL CARE

Public meetings to discuss rises in care costs

A SERIES of public meetings will be held for people concerned about increases in the cost of adult social care.

More than 5,000 elderly and disabled people could be affected by the Kent County Council proposals, which include an increase in the amount of available income taken into account when working out how much to charge.

The authority also wants

mental health patients to contribute, while including day care and transport as part of the services charged for.

Six public meetings will be held as part of a 12-week consultation, with the possibility of more if appropriate.

The first will be at Ashford Enterprise Centre, Kennington, from 2.30-3.30pm on Thursday. Dover Discovery Centre will host the second, from

7-8pm on Tuesday, June 7.

The third will be at County Hall, Maidstone, from 7-8pm on June 22, and the fourth at Northdown House, Broadstairs, from 7-8pm on June 23.

Meetings will also be at the Camden Centre, Tunbridge Wells, from 7-8pm on June 30, and at Gravesend council chambers from 7-8pm on July 13. Visit www.kent.gov.uk/fsccharging for details.

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ART

An artistic delicacy

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

CARL Warner has come a long way since a childhood dreaming of making a living through his love of art.

From spending hours in his bedroom designing spaceships and buildings, even the young Mr Warner could scarcely have imagined just how he would end up making a name for himself.

Because today he is acknowledged as one of the world's leading food artists. For him, the canvas and the paint brush are not required. His tools are more often than not a carrot, an eye for detail, and a talent for photography. For he creates landscapes using food to whet the artistic tastebuds. Or foodscapes, as he calls them.

Broccoli morphs into trees; potatoes into great craggy rocks, and smoked salmon becomes the sea at sunset. They really do have to be seen to be believed, with intricate details like the ornate design of a London lamppost recreated with a cunningly positioned anchovy.

"Food is something that people can relate to easily and have a natural affinity with," the father-of-four from Horsmonden explains.

"The advantage is that there is such an incredible choice of ingredients in terms of shape, texture and colours. My palette is a three-dimensional one and that makes things very exciting.

"The one disadvantage is the fresh fruit and veg perishes quickly and so we have to work fast, especially when creating a large scene. Things like fresh herbs wilt and dry before your eyes."



Having worked as a professional photographer for 25 years, Mr Warner said he stumbled on the idea of making landscapes out of food just over 10 years ago.

Since then he has established a niche for himself in the hyper-competitive art marketplace. Now he gets commissions from across the world, while his Food Landscapes book has proved a consistent seller.

Living in Kent, he commutes to his studio – appropriately enough a stone's throw from London

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DELICIOUS DESIGNS: Clockwise from bottom left: Carl works on an Amazon foodscape with a Blue Peter camera crew following all the action; a sea of salmon; celery forest; artist Carl Warner

Bridge's food temple, Borough Market.

"I imagine the scene in my head and then I draw a sketch," he says of the creative process. "From here I decide what the ingredients will be and I work with my food stylist and model maker to build the scape on a large table in my studio."

It is the execution of the idea by the model maker that makes the foodscapes so impressive. They have been known to carve a courgette into a lighthouse, while bread can recreate a boat.

He adds: "I am passionate about food, eating it, cooking it, and photographing it. I hope I can ignite and pass on that same passion for food to the younger generation through my work."

"We certainly have access to some wonderful fresh ingredients from the Garden of England."

Having been commissioned to produce a landscape for the BBC's perennially popular Blue Peter children's programme – where he fulfilled the dream of being presented with a cherished Blue Peter badge – Mr Warner is now hard at

work on his second book, designed for children.

Along with an animated TV series, which it is hoped will do for food education what Sesame Street did for numeracy and literacy, the emphasis is very much on changing habits and perceptions from a young age.

It is to that end he has once again got heavily involved in the Create a Fruit and Veg Masterpiece art competition.

"It's great to see such an innovative competition that gets children interacting and having fun with some of the lovely produce grown here in the country," he says.

For now though, aside from his stint as a judge in the contest, he continues to work on his art.

He concludes: "Today my skills are creating worlds of food, so I can escape in a similar way to that which I did in my bedroom as a child."

■ See www.producedinkent.co.uk for how to enter the Create a Fruit and Veg Masterpiece, and prize information.

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CRIME

Policing cuts won't be as damaging as union is claiming, says Tory MP

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

AN INFLUENTIAL Tory MP has criticised Kent Police Federation for the tone of its anti-government spending cuts campaign.

Rochester and Strood representative Mark Reckless, who is a member of both the Home

Affairs Committee and the Kent Police Authority, said he felt the images used in newspaper adverts placed by the union were misleading and could needlessly scare people.

The first advert – which appeared in all Archant KOS Media publications earlier this month – featured images of a burglar breaking into someone's home while police officers queued at a job

centre. It carried the tagline – "Consequences of 20 per cent cuts to policing? Cuts are criminal".

Mr Reckless said: "I think the use of those pictures was regrettable. Clearly the Police Federation will speak for their members, but one of the consequences is that they will scare people with some of these images."

"The one with officers queuing up outside the job centre is misleading because police can't be made redundant and have a job for 30 years. It's almost impossible to lose an officer, even if he or she is no good at their job. Rates of burglary are also now much lower than what they were."

Kent Police is currently battling to save £50 million over the next four years due to a 20 per cent cut in Home Office funding, which is expected to lead to a loss of about 500 officers (through natural wastage) and 1,000 support staff.

The force is undergoing a major restructure as a result of the cuts, which will see a reduction in the number of policing areas from six to three, and a greater emphasis on neighbourhood policing.

When the anti-cuts campaign was launched, Kent Police Federation chairman Ian Pointon said it was inevitable crime would go up, but Mr Reckless said it was not a foregone conclusion.

The Tory MP said: "We had been planning for a £53m reduction in government grants, but it's actually more like £43m, so I have to question whether it's absolutely necessary to lose as many



POLICE AUTHORITY: Tory MP Mark Reckless

members of staff as originally projected.

"But we've seen a considerable fall in crime since the early-to-mid-1990s, and over that time police numbers have gone up and down and there hasn't been a clear connection between the two."

"What's important is how we do policing now, and I'm really pleased with the new policing model for Kent that will give more responsibility to neighbourhood officers. It's much more efficient and effective to have small investigations led by officers who know their areas best."

"I would obviously prefer more officers than less, but the previous Labour government borrowed more in the last three years than in the previous three centuries and we've got to put that deficit right."

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POPPY APPEAL

British Legion asks you to hold unusual fundraising party to mark 90th birthday

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

FUNDRAISERS have been asked to come up with imaginative party locations to help celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Royal British Legion.

The Armed Forces charity already has events planned at the top of a Welsh mountain and on a research centre in Antarctica, and now wants Kent to play its part during the Great Poppy Party Weekend of June 10-12.

A £1,000 prize is up for grabs for the organiser of the most unusual location as the Legion looks to raise £90 million.

"The last surviving veteran of World War One passed away recently but we still have servicemen and women based around the world who will require our help for the rest of their lives," said east Kent community fundraiser Jane Taylor.

"We're not just for people injured in conflict but also for ex-Armed Forces personnel who have fallen on hard times."

"Last year we raised £36m from the Poppy Appeal alone, which was up from



CHEERS: Kent Poppy Appeal supporters

the year before. People have realised that we are still relevant today due to the conflicts in places like Afghanistan, and it shows we are a nation that rallies around when people are in dire need."

The British Legion was founded in 1921 as a voice for ex-service personnel, and was granted a Royal Charter to mark its 50th anniversary in 1971.

Best known for the annual Remem-

brance services and Poppy Appeal – organised from its base in Aylesford, near Maidstone – the charity promotes the welfare and interests of current and former members of the Armed Forces.

Lisa Booth, 38, from Barham, near Canterbury, served with the RAF for 13 years and is among those helping to raise money for the Legion during the Great Poppy Party Weekend.

She said: "I've had a horrendous past three years. It started when I lost my mum to cancer, and shortly after that my husband of 10 years left me.

"I have an eight-year-old son and we became homeless, and if it was not for the Legion helping me with rent and things like we would not be here today.

"The hardest thing was asking for support because it's a pride thing. But once I took that step I realised how much they could help, and the charity has supported me setting up my own business."

Visit www.thegreatpoppypartyweekend.org.uk for more information.

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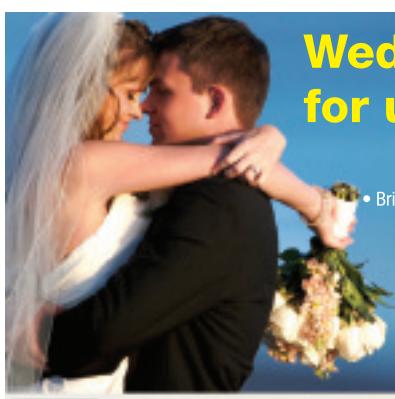
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News

EPILEPSY

Bucks Fizz star Mike 'a new man' as treatment halts epileptic seizures

Julia Rogers

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

NINE months after the horrific coach crash which nearly killed him, Mike Nolan was back on stage with Bucks Fizz stepping up to the mic to introduce their medley of hits.

It was September, 1985, and the Eurovision Song Contest winners – Sevenoaks resident Cheryl Baker, Bobby G, Jay Aston and Mike – were desperate to put the accident behind them.

It was during a hard day's rehearsals at a theatre in Windsor when Mike started to feel odd.

Mike, who is now 56 and lives in Broadstairs, said: "I remember walking to the back of the stage and Cheryl was putting her hands on my shoulders shouting at me to sit down. That's when I collapsed and had my first seizure.

"Cheryl thought I was dying. It was terrifying."

More than 456,000 people in the UK suffer with epilepsy, a tendency to have recurrent seizures or fits. It is caused by a sudden burst of electrical activity in the brain, causing a temporary disruption in the normal messages passing between the brain cells.

Mike's epilepsy stemmed from an accident when the band's coach collided with a lorry in



EURO STARS: Mike Nolan today with Bucks Fizz members Jay Aston (left) and Cheryl Baker (right)

Newcastle on December 11, 1984 – four days after his 30th birthday – which left the singer critically injured and in a coma.

Surgeons at Newcastle General Hospital performed life-saving surgery to remove a blood clot from the left side of his brain, but despite the operation's success, Mike was only given a 50/50 chance of survival and read his last rites.

Although he pulled through, the sever-

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WRECKAGE: The coach after the accident that changed Mike Nolan's life and led to epilepsy

ity of his brain injuries left him with short-term memory loss and only 50 per cent vision.

Mike said: "I was a changed man – with terrible mood swings. I started being really ratty, outspoken and hurtful."

And the epilepsy diagnosis nine months after the accident knocked Mike for six.

He said: "I was in denial. The first time, I could convince myself it was a one-off. But when it happened again I couldn't be in denial any longer. I felt like I was disabled."

Troubled by the stigma and lack of understanding around epilepsy and trying to cope with his loss of sight and change in personality, Mike started to suffer with depression.

Thankfully, Mike is back to his mischievous self – thanks to his own determination and GP Dr Greg Rogers, a specialist in epilepsy based at Bethesda Medical Centre in Cliftonville, Margate.

Dr Rogers leads a team of eight GPs and epilepsy nurses, working in the community in collaboration with the east Kent hospitals' neurology service.

All the GPs have been trained to care for patients with epilepsy and it allows patients to be cared for in a more relaxed setting.

Dr Rogers said: "We carefully monitor and regularly review patients to try and reduce the side effects of their medication and reduce the harmful risks by stopping their seizures."

Mike said: "I suffered such bad effects of the anti-epilepsy tablets, they made me feel so drowsy. Dr Rogers talked through my epilepsy with me and eased me off those and onto others.

"Since changing medication, I feel like a new person and I've been seizure free for three years."

Dr Rogers said: "The tablets cannot cure epilepsy but they can help to control the seizures. For most people, if they haven't had a seizure for a year, it's highly likely they are under control."

■ See yourhealtnet.co.uk for local headlines.

■ A longer version of this article appears in Your Health magazine, which is out now and focuses on managing long-term conditions. Pick up your copy from your GP surgery, hospital or read it online at www.yourhealthcheck.nhs.uk.



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WORLD WAR TWO

Dispute over Dambuster book

IN OUR article 'Dambuster's book to sell for a bomb' (September 12, 2010) we reported that a book about the raid, originally owned by Flying Officer Brian Goodale, was to be sold at auction. Our story reported that the seller, Mrs Farnham, had obtained the book after Mr Goodale had left it at her father's hotel in Northern Ireland, along with his belongings and an unpaid bill. We have been

contacted by Mr Goodale's son, Simon, who would like to make clear that Mrs Farnham's account is disputed. He says that his father did pay his bill and that the book was loaned to Mrs Farnham's father after he expressed an interest in it.

Simon Goodale claims that despite returning to the hotel on a number of occasions to retrieve the book, his father was informed it had been lost.

KCC CUTS

Staff hired out as County Hall bids to slash redundancy bill

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

COUNTY Hall workers are being loaned out to private firms in an attempt to reduce the huge amounts of money spent

on redundancy payments.

Earlier this year it was revealed that Kent County Council had dished out £3.8 million of payouts between April, 2010, and February, 2011, having spent just £5m from the same budget in the previous three years combined.

Lib Dem councillor Tim Prater said at the time: "It's an incredible amount to be spending on redundancies when we should be focusing on trying to redeploy existing staff."

"It strikes me as being a lot of money spent in less than a year, and quite a percentage of the available budget."

"I know they're trying to reduce the numbers of staff but we've been told all the way through that most would go through natural wastage and redeployment."

"So for a year when the council has not been massively focused on redundancies, I think it's a fairly shocking statistic."

KCC has been forced to find

£95m worth of savings this year and is expected to lose 1,500 members of staff over the next three to four years.

But in an attempt to reduce the cost of redundancy payments the authority has signed up to the new Staff-Share project, which will enable it to hire out workers to other organisations on a temporary basis while sharing the costs.

Kent and 22 other councils have signed up as part of a pilot scheme delivered by Local Government Employers (LGE).

StaffShare founding director Phil Flaxton said: "The 300,000 job losses forecast in the public sector nationally will cost central and local government an estimated £9 billion just for the redundancies."

"Figures produced by the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development give the average cost of making an employee redundant in the public sector as £29,400.

Last year some 111,000 general government jobs were lost, which already cost about £3.2 billion."

Included within the £3.8m spent by KCC was £784,012 in end-of-contract payments to 18 members of staff, including £408,000 before tax to former chief executive Peter Gilroy.

It also includes £538,263 paid to nine senior managers who left the council after January 31, and £2.5m to 195 ex-workers who had departed before that date.

Workforce strategy manager Nigel Fairburn said: "KCC is delighted to be a member of StaffShare – an online skill exchange that shares employees with charities, not-for-profit organisations, small and medium enterprises, and other expanding businesses."

"This is a great opportunity for KCC to support the local economy, develop employees and offer employment to mitigate job losses, while saving costs."

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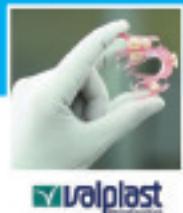
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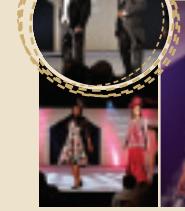
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ENTERTAINMENT

Six months of negotiations for Prince gig

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

HOP Farm Festival chiefs have revealed they were in talks with superstar Prince for six months before finally adding his name to the bill.

The three-day festival in Paddock Wood has seen a huge surge of interest from across Europe since the Minneapolis maestro added his name to the star-studded line-up, which already includes the likes of The Eagles on Friday, and Lou Reed and Morrissey on Saturday.

Tickets for the Sunday, July 3, show went on sale last Thursday, with fans clamouring for the chance to see the star. His last UK shows were the record-breaking 21 nights at London's O2 Arena in 2007.

Speaking to this newspaper this week, promoter Vince Power revealed: "We're obviously delighted Prince has agreed to perform. He had several festivals in the UK looking to get him to play, so for him to choose the Hop Farm was fantastic. We started talks with him about six months ago. Then he came back to us and said he wanted to play."

"He said he was impressed with the fact we don't have sponsorship."

Prince has been linked with a headline slot at the Glastonbury Festival for a number of years, with organiser Michael Eavis making no secret of his desire to see the Purple Rain star top the bill at the world's biggest festival.

But securing his name for the Hop Farm Festival represents a major coup for Mr Power, who has long admired the star.

An extra day was added to the event and details of the supporting line-up began to be confirmed this week. Among the names playing will be rapper Tinie Tempah and singer Imelda May.

Also playing will be Larry Graham and Graham Central Station.

More acts are set to be confirmed over the coming days, with Mr Power confirming that Prince is having a say on the support acts and with several of "his contemporaries" set to perform.

Among acts tipped to be added to the bill include Chaka Khan and Amy Winehouse. She duetted on stage the last time the singer performed in the UK – during an aftershow at O2 venue the Indigo following his final main arena concert. Tickets for Prince cost £70.

■ For the full interview with promoter Vince Power, pick up next week's copy of this newspaper.



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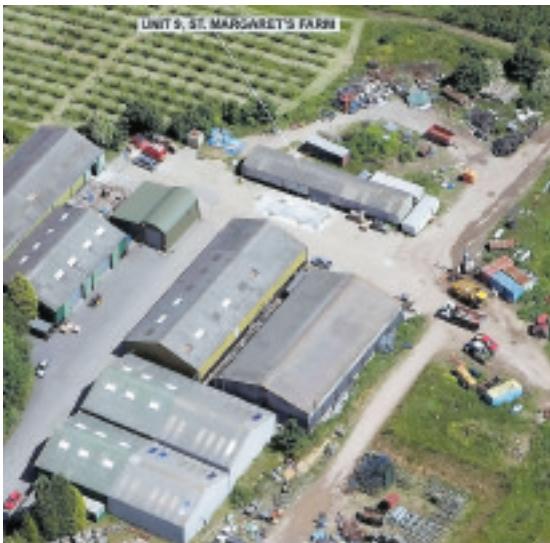
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CRIME



JAILED: Darren Finch ran his drugs empire from St Margaret's Farm in Dartford (left) and Lested Lodge (below) in Chart Sutton. He had been on the run from police since skipping bail in 2008

Justice finally catches up with drugs gang boss

By James Reid

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A DRUGS baron whose multi-million pound drug supply business stretched from Kent to Newcastle, has joined 23 co-conspirators behind bars after three years on the run.

Darren Finch, 40, from Maidstone, had been on the run since 2008 after skipping bail.

He was arrested on an International Arrest Warrant in Cape Town in July, 2010, after a joint operation between the Serious Organised Crime Agency (Soca) and the South African authorities.

Finch and Michael McDonagh headed up the organised crime gang which delivered cannabis and other drugs throughout England.

The drugs were imported from Germany and the Netherlands hidden in lorry loads of legitimate goods.

Once the shipment had arrived in Kent the lorry driver, James Chapman, would take the drugs to one of two hubs from which the gang's criminal activity was co-ordinated – St Margaret's Farm in Dartford or Lested Lodge in Chart Sutton.

A network of distributors was then employed to deliver the drugs to the north west of England.

Finch and McDonagh tried to frustrate Soca's investigation by using multiple untraceable phones. When Finch was arrested by Soca officers in November, 2007, he attempted unsuccessfully to destroy and discard three phones and sim cards.

Financial investigations are currently under way into sev-



eral members of the network including Finch. So far Soca has been granted confiscation and forfeiture orders totalling £1.5 million.

Last week at Maidstone Crown Court justice caught up with Finch when he was sentenced to five-and-a-half years for conspiracy to supply controlled drugs and four years for transferring criminal property. The sentences will run concurrently.

His Honour Judge Joy said: "The supply and importation of drugs is a scourge on society. Finch was a principal in this conspiracy, he was an organiser and his part was crucial."

Soca's Gerry Smyth said: "Finch seemed to think he could leave the rest of the gang to carry the can while he stayed out of harm's way himself in Cape Town. He didn't count on the excellent co-operation going on between the UK and South Africa."

"It's probably not the reunion party he had in mind."

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OPINION

This is A&E, not a nail bar

Dr James Thallon, GP and medical director at NHS West Kent and Tunbridge Wells, urges people to seek the appropriate treatment when they are injured

I HAVE been a GP for 15 years and thought I'd pretty much seen it all, but speaking to colleagues who work in Accident & Emergency (A&E) departments, it seems there are still shocks and surprises to be had.

I was amazed to hear the recent news item about a man who took his horse into A&E in Wrexham, and even more amazed it was not a one off, as an A&E department in Kent has also been presented with a horse for treatment – the owner was politely told that A&E is for human patients only.

Other recent examples of inappropriate A&E attendance include a woman who turned up for treatment for a broken finger nail, and a young man who complained to A&E staff that his newly inked tattoo was red and sore.

Although these stories are entertaining, there is a serious side to them. Over the April and early May Bank Holidays,

A&E departments in Kent and Medway came under pressure quickly as thousands of people used them as their first port of call.

Kent and Sussex Hospital A&E saw a 10 per cent increase in the number of patients turn up over the Bank Holiday, and across Kent and Medway the average attendance figure rose from between three per cent and 13 per cent.

A&E is supposed to be for emergency and life-threatening incidents only. All too often patients who turn up could receive treatment quicker by choosing other NHS services such as a Minor Injuries Unit (MIU), walk in centre, GP, community pharmacist, or even treat themselves with basic first aid and online advice.

A visit to A&E with a minor ailment costs your local NHS between £85-£90, but a trip with the same injury to an MIU can be as little as half that.

MIUs are for injuries that

need attention, but which are not life threatening, such as fractures, cuts, sprains and strains, animal bites, stings and minor burns. Patients can turn up with no appointment and are treated by trained emergency nurse practitioners.

Nikki Luffingham, chief operating officer at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, which runs Kent and Sussex Hospital said: "A&E might be the most convenient place to go, but it may not be the most appropriate.

"You might think going to A&E saves you time, but it means we have less time for people who urgently need our attention.

"By seeking the right kind of care, you are not just helping yourself but dozens of other people we will be seeing in A&E who really need our help."

I couldn't agree with her more: thinking before you turn up to A&E not only reduces un-

necessary costs and saves you a great deal of time, but it could mean the difference between life and death for someone who really needs urgent care.

We want people to know what their best and most appropriate healthcare choices are over the holidays, so if you have an accident or need to seek medical advice for some reason please consider whether it is urgent or life threatening before you head off to A&E.

■ **NHS Direct** can answer your questions around the clock. Call 0845 46 47 or visit www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk.

You can also phone your GP surgery for a message about the out of hours service.

For more details of your local MIU, or pharmacy opening hours, visit the site for your area: www.westkentpct.nhs.uk, www.medwaypct.nhs.uk/choosewell, or www.easterncoastalkent.nhs.uk.

KOS COMMENT

No end in sight for our pothole problems?

WINTER may be months away, but concerns have already been raised about Kent County Council's ability to get the roads ready for another cold snap.

Despite having already broken the bank to repair hundreds of pothole-ridden roads, Labour says the authority will need more than £400 million extra to finish the job completely.

KCC says it is committed to tackling the problem, but with money so tight it's a tough challenge.

Why you should sign up for a Race for Life

IT has become one of the most popular charity events over recent years – but this time around, organisers of the Race for Life have admitted they are struggling to hit their targets.

Cancer will, almost inevitably, have an impact on everyone. Whether it is due to illness of a loved one or you yourself. The desire to ease suffering and, ultimately, find a cure, should remain as pressing today as ever. So walk, run or jog, but do take part.

Join the girls in Kent



Walk, jog or run to help save lives.

Enter your local 5k or 10k Race for Life this summer
at www.raceforlife.org or call 0871 641 1111*



Cooling Castle
submitted by
Harry Matthews
from Herne Bay

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Fight to beat the litterbugs

IT SEEMS the battle to keep our roadsides clear of litter is never ending. This situation is not helped by the current legal loophole that lets litter louts get away with it scot-free.

Currently our council can't take effective action against people who throw litter out of their cars because the existing law requires the council to prove who threw the litter, rather than just proving that litter was thrown from the car.

I support the work being done by the Campaign to Protect Rural England, the Local Government Association and Keep Britain Tidy to amend the existing law, so that whoever owns the vehicle is responsible for what is thrown out of it. Similar to the way laws on speeding, wearing seat belts and fly-tipping work.

I'm sure there are hundreds of councils, citizens and motorists who are sick of roadside litter. Clearing up this litter is expensive and dangerous and this simple change to the law would

provide our council with an effective deterrent against the careless and thoughtless behaviour of litterers. I would like to encourage your readers to write to their MP about the issue – there is a draft letter available at www.cpre.org.uk.

Brian Reynolds, Gravesend

Wind blowing the right way

I WELCOME the decision by wind turbine manufacturer, Vestas, to bring green jobs to the Isle of Sheppey.

This is a clear demonstration of the way in which a shift to renewable energy will help us to create clean power, slow climate change and create thousands of much-needed green jobs across Kent.

It's clear that, if we are to reduce our carbon emissions in line with UK and EU targets, and achieve greater energy security for future generations, we must move away from our dependence on fossil fuels and invest heavily in green technologies. The Government has announced new plans to halve UK carbon emissions by 2025. To make this an

achievable goal they must welcome major renewable energy companies to the UK.

The UK, as an island, is in a unique position to become a world leader in this technology and I look forward to Kent being at the forefront.

Keith Taylor, Green MEP for Kent and South East England

Charity should begin at home

HOW DID we get an imbecile for a Prime Minister, a man who is set on doing all he can (while in office) to ruin our country and our way of life?

David Cameron has now insisted the UK will enshrine its commitment to foreign aid in law. What about aid for your own people? Why are you trying to ruin England and starve its people while you feed others who can feed themselves? Countries that use the aid money to build war machines etc, and leave their poor to starve as you do.

The UK Treasury has set 2013 as the time to make a massive increase in overseas aid, as if we aren't giving away enough already. A whopping

33 per cent increase – will be added to the billions of pounds we give away now, when it's likely that Britain will still be struggling in the aftermath of the recessions.

Stop foreign aid for one year and England would be free of debt and able to help others without starving ourselves.

I don't think Cameron nor Clegg care a damn about our country, they will both go down in history as the 'odd couple who killed England'.

John R O'Neon, Folkestone

Potential has gone to waste

JA Deakin obviously did not read my letter (Letters, May 22). Most people I have spoken to in Thanet think the Turner centre is a big let down.

That's not because we don't want it to be successful. There is no way the planning and building should have cost what is claimed, hence the big fuss about the cost.

The building is out of place, as it is designed. The Turner centre should have had much more displayed on its opening.

There could have been

much more local art, until they can meet their promise of more worldly exhibits.

When I have been, I hear people complaining in there all the time.

There are several places in the area that have 10 times the amount of art displayed.

It is another example of a make-do project, that this area is getting well known for.

This time at an astronomical cost and still not done properly.

What the Turner centre cost we could have had a really good building that matches in with the buildings around.

In an area that has such potential, I have seen Margate go so far backwards in the last 35 years.

What is need now is to fill what we have, with lots of good art, contemporary and otherwise. Turner was a great painter – make it live up to his name.

Adrian Ottley Birchington

Police union's wrong on cuts

HOW sad the Kent Police Federation, supposedly a

professional body, should sink to inciting fear of crime as a means to keeping their members' obsolete and ruinous working practices. And are the rest of us who suffer 25 per cent cuts to make that 30 per cent cut instead, in order to keep them in the manner to which they've become accustomed?

Perhaps like the rest of us, they could think about pulling their weight to get the country out of the mess it's in, instead of freeloading on those of us who are working longer for less money.

Ian Holton
Tunbridge Wells

Tigers need your help now

THE media is awash with a stream of stories about natural disasters and conflicts. Serious as these are, this coverage masks one of the greatest global tragedies now unfolding. I write to you as a local person who speaks to and hears from local people, in the hope people in every community will hear this story and realise every single one of them has the power to help avert this tragedy.

When I was born 80 years ago, there were 100,000 tigers roaming free in India alone.

Now there are less than 3,500 left on the entire planet. To me this is an emotional cause. It makes me cry with anger to think that man can turn a blind eye to this mass extermination of such a majestic and iconic species – a species that supports the broad and magnificent biodiversity of our planet, that is a symbol of all that is good about the world we are so fortunate to share.

I am calling on every member of every local community in Britain to join me in my new worldwide movement to save the tiger in the wild by signing up at www.tigertime.info. It will be one of the most important things that your readers do today and its effect will last well after tomorrow.

Please help to support TigerTime, together we can make a difference, but only if we act now.

If you need more details of how you can help, please contact my TigerTime Colleagues at : TigerTime, 'Puffins, Peene, Folkestone, Kent CT18 8BG.

David Shepherd CBE
Wildlife artist and conservationist

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Why won't the Post Office let me save?

QI SENT a cheque for £1,000 to pay for a growth bond offered through the Post Office. My bank statement showed the money had been taken and I decided to increase my investment so I sent a further £2,000. I was then amazed to get back both the cheques, with letters saying that after an electronic check to determine my identity and address, the Post Office was unable to offer me a savings product. I am over 80 and have lived in my house for 56 years. I have a state pension and a health service pension. The Post Office said if my circumstances change I may be successful with a future application – but I don't think this is likely to happen.

AIN THEORY, all savings and investment companies follow the same rules about having to identify their customers. In practice, the Post Office operates like a branch of the Civil Service that does not care whether you invest or not and looks for reasons why you should not be allowed to invest, rather than help you to do so. My guess is that at your age you do not have a credit card, a personal loan, or goods bought on hire purchase. So when the Post Office checked your credit agency file it was blank. Perhaps you are not even on the electoral register. In the same way, counter clerks are supposed to ask for your passport, photographic driving licence, or firearms certificate. You may well have none of these. All of this bureaucracy is based on the idea that your £1,000 may be an inheritance from Osama bin Laden or some other unpleasant person, and that you are laundering money for terrorists or international drug barons. Common sense went out of the window a long time ago. However, all of the above are just the headlines from the rules. The Post Office is also supposed to accept a letter from the Department for Work and Pensions that shows your name in full, if it is backed by a second piece of evidence, such as a bank statement or utility bill. Try this at your local post office, and if you are still rejected, let me know.

QI OWE £4,300 on a credit card. I want to clear this debt, but I cannot afford to do so in one payment. I have been paying £100 each month, but about half of this disappears in interest, so at this rate it will take several years to repay everything. I have more than £5,000 in a direct cash Isa with National Savings. Should I draw £4,300 out of this to pay the card company?

AYES. Take cash from your Isa and give it straight to the credit card company. National Savings is currently paying you 2.5pc in tax-free interest on your Isa. Now look at the rate of interest charged on

TONY HETHERINGTON
MONEY CLINIC



your credit card. If you are paying about £50 in monthly interest that means the interest rate is about 14pc. It makes no sense to earn 2.5pc while you are paying out 14pc. As long as you leave yourself with a bit of rainy day money for emergencies get rid of this card debt as fast as you can.

QCAN YOU tell me if someone has to pay tax on their savings income if they are a pensioner and war disabled?

ATHERE is no special tax exemption for savings income, but pensioners over 65 and on a modest income do receive extra tax allowances that allow more of their income to escape tax. If you were disabled in the forces or as a civilian victim of enemy action, then any resulting pension or award that you receive is tax free, but the rest of your income is taxed as usual.

QI AM a Lloyds TSB shareholder and have received a letter from a group called Lloyds Action Now, which says it is making a compensation claim arising from the merger with Halifax Bank of Scotland. The group wants shareholders to pay £270 to finance the legal action. Is this group legitimate?

ATHE ACTION group (<https://lloydsactionnow.com>) is perfectly genuine. It claims the dire financial position of HBOS was concealed ahead of the merger, leaving Lloyds TSB to pick up an unfair burden that has since sent the bank's shares sliding, leaving investors like you out of pocket. Whether any compensation claim will succeed is unpredictable, but the group has already got an impressive line-up of lawyers on its side.

QMY PARENTS have turned 80, but still enjoy summer holidays abroad. It is increasingly hard to find travel insurance though. Do any firms offer cover to over-80s?

ACOVER can be expensive because the older you are, the more likely you are to need medical treatment. If your parents travel a lot, they should consider an annual policy from Co-op Insurance Home Options (0845 300 3525) or Age UK (0845 600 3348). For a one-off trip, Easyjet's Mondial cover (0871 200 0223) offers good value. None of these companies applies any upper age limit.

■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.

A cloud could hang over your insurance

By Ed Foss
MyMoney 24 writer

THE return of the Icelandic ash cloud has forced thousands of travellers to double check their policies and reconsider whether to pay out in the future for add-ons to give them peace of mind.

Travel insurance cover for ash cloud-related disruption varies widely and so it is important for holidaymakers to check the insurance they have in place.

Main questions include whether their policy considers the ash cloud to be a weather-related event and therefore provides cover at all, or whether the policy expressly excludes ash cloud events.

If the policy does cover this it is important to find out what level of cover it provides, as there is significant variation between policies in terms of the protection they offer.

According to financial research company Defaqto, data shows that cover for holiday abandonment and delays varies widely across single and annual trip travel insurance policies.

If a flight is delayed, 12pc of single trip policies provide no cover towards the cost of food and other expenses, for example, while holidaymakers are waiting in the airport. Of those policies that do cover this, a quarter provide cover of £100 or less.

In terms of annual trip policies, 9pc provide no cover towards expenses people may incur while at the airport. Of those policies that do cover this, 22pc provide cover of £100 or less.

And if a holiday is completely cancelled as a result of the disruption, 40pc of single trip policies provide £5,000 cover or more for the cost of the holiday, 14pc offer cover of less than £2,000, and 12pc provide no cover.

Slightly more than half of annual trip policies provide £5,000 or more towards the cost of the holiday, 14pc provide cover of less than £2,000 and



DISRUPTION: An arrivals board shows flights cancelled due to the current ash cloud drifting over the UK from Iceland which caused many travellers concern

1pc of policies offer no cover at all.

Mike Powell, Defaqto's insight analyst for general insurance, said: "A key issue is the extent to which someone's travel insurance policy will cover them for any disruption they suffer as a result."

"Our data shows significant variation in the level of cover that policies offer for travel delays and holiday abandonment, which are two of the main consequences travellers are likely to experience."

"As always the devil is in the detail. If holidaymakers are unsure it is worth speaking to their insurance provider to get clarity on how they would treat any claims."

Kate Niven, senior travel underwriter at Aviva, said: "If you think the ash cloud might affect your plans to fly from or back to the UK, in the first instance you should speak to your travel operator, airline or airport you are flying from to check the situation."

"Those customers who have al-

ready purchased the Aviva 'air space closure' add-on policy will have cover where air space has been closed by the Civil Aviation Authority or airlines have grounded the flight for more than 24 hours as a result of the ash cloud.

"The optional air space closure add-on to our standard travel policy, launched last year, provides cover for non-refundable travel and accommodation costs incurred where travel has been affected by UK air space, port or airport closure – for example, in the wake of a volcanic ash cloud causing authorities to close air space."

Air space closure cover is currently still available for purchase as an add-on to the Aviva travel policy for customers wishing to add this to their existing travel policy for future holidays.

However, as this is a 'known event' and would therefore not be covered by insurance, you will not be able to make a claim relating to this specific volcanic event.

Watchdog welcomes Virgin's bank bid

THE ATTEMPTS by Virgin Money to enter the UK high street banking market would aid competition and work to the benefit of consumers, according to a leading watchdog.

With news of Virgin Money's efforts to secure £2 billion to buy branches of Northern Rock and Lloyds branches, Which? executive director Richard Lloyd said the long-awaited arrival would be "good news for consumers".

"The prospect of a new high street bank is good news for consumers as competition in retail banking has really suffered since the financial crisis," he said.

"If Virgin can offer genuinely competitive products this should force the existing players to up their game. When deciding on the sale of Northern Rock and Lloyds branches, the Government should apply a public interest test to ensure that it

will genuinely benefit consumers by enhancing competition."

The five largest banking groups – Lloyds, Santander, Barclays, HSBC and RBS/Natwest – account for 85pc of the current account market. This compares to 74pc in 2007 before the financial crisis. Lloyds is attempting to sell 600 branches following an EU competition ruling on the government bailout of the bank, while Northern Rock is looking to sell 70 branches.



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*Special offer price of £9,995 available on Swift SZ2 3 door only. Low monthly payments available across the Swift range. [†]Included in the monthly payments and final payment. Finance available subject to status. Indemnities may be required. For full details please contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Suzuki Finance reserves the right to withdraw or amend this offer without notice or prior warning. The offer is available to customers within the UK (excludes Channel Islands and Isle of Man). Suzuki Finance, part of Black Horse Group, St William House, Tresillian Terrace, Cardiff CF10 5BH. This offer is subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st April 2011 and 30th June 2011 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. The Swift 1.2 M/T model falls into Government Vehicle Excise Band C at £30 from year 2 onwards, first year free. Engine start button and Bluetooth capability is available on SZ4 models only. All prices and specifications are correct at time of going to press.

Model shown is the Swift SZ2 3 door M/T available at £9,995* on the road (metallic paint at £399).

Swift range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): urban from 41.5 (6.8) to 46.3 (6.1), extra urban from 57.6 (4.9) to 64.2 (4.4), combined from 50.4 (5.6) to 56.5 (5.0). Official CO₂ emissions from 129g/km to 116g/km.





Pictured above: Dover Exhibition Conference Hall

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INSIDE THIS WEEK

REALISING Manston airport's masterplan might give Thanet a lift – but at what cost? A study has found that the airport could create more than 3,000 jobs and add £65 million to the east Kent economy by 2018 if growth targets were met. But this would be achieved only if night and early-morning flights were given the go-ahead – the sole way to attract low-cost airlines to Manston. Might this deter more people than it benefits?

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Your business is our business

Bank of England bosses split by uncertain inflation outlook

By **Simon Robinson**

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THE Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee remains split on how best to tackle the issue of rising inflation.

The opposing views of the nine-man board were outlined briefly by the Bank's South East agent, Phil Eckersley, in a Quarterly Inflation report lecture at Kent Science Park last week.

The economist told Kent's business leaders that MPC members' varying views were based on the latest CPI inflation projection.

The Bank's three-year forecast shows the most likely outcome for inflation is to peak towards the end of the year before dropping to 2 per cent – the Government's target figure – by 2013, when it levels off.

However, the forecast also gives equal weight to vastly differing outcomes, with the likelihood of inflation remaining at 4.5 per cent or slumping to 0 per cent by the same time period both coming in at just under 20 per cent.

The Bank's inflation report reflects on this unusual situation by stating: "There are considerable uncertainties around the future path of inflation."

Currently, the majority of MPC members have subscribed to the belief that inflation is being affected by short-term price shocks, including increased VAT, energy costs and import prices.

They believe inflation will fall back into line when these price pressures tail off later this year.



INSIGHT: Phil Eckersley spoke about the Bank's tough task in predicting the future of the economy

However, other MPC members are concerned that inflation is affecting growth and needs to be curtailed now by rising interest rates.

The Bank's report recognises the need for keeping a close eye on inflation.

It states: "Inflation continues to be sensitive to movements in commodity and energy prices, which have been extremely volatile in the recent

past, and could well move sharply again during the forecast period.

"But the medium-term outlook for inflation will also reflect substantial, but opposing, domestic pressures on inflation. To the upside, second-round effects of the sustained period of above-target inflation could put upward pressure on prices. To the downside, a continuation of recent weak growth and the presence of a substantial margin of spare capacity could push inflation well below the target."

"The MPC will continue to set policy to balance the upside and downside risks in order to meet the inflation target in the medium term."

Kent Science Park director James Speck said the lecture had given a fantastic insight into the state of the economy and an understanding of the MPC's complex decision-making process.

He said: "This really was an excellent event and I was very impressed with Phil's delivery of his information. The state of the UK's economy is of absolutely paramount concern to practically every business-owner in the country, so to have a representative from the Bank of England come to Kent Science Park and discuss these extremely important issues with Kent's business community is a great coup for the area."

A poll taken at the event asked the 65 business leaders in attendance whether they felt their business was in recession, showing green shoots, back to its best, or in total catastrophe.

Happily, more than 80 per cent of the delegates said they were experiencing the green shoots of recovery.

FINANCE

Southern SMEs are owed most money

MORE than 380,000 SMEs in the South suffer as a result of overdue invoices – sending the region to the top of the late-payment league table.

Research carried out by Bacs has revealed that more companies in the South are left chasing money owed to them than in the North (248,000) and the Midlands (263,000).

Overall, southern businesses have £8.7 billion outstanding and spend 3.1 hours a week on debt collection.

On a positive note, the mean amount owed to out-of-pocket companies in the region is just £23,000, less than the North's average figure of £25,000 and the Midlands' £38,000.

Bacs head of marketing Mike Hutchinson said: "Late payment remains a big problem for British SMEs, with billions overdue against bills, causing small businesses to use up millions of man hours in chasing invoice payment. Cash flow is an essential business priority and we urge SMEs to turn to automated payments wherever they can."



ON THE UP: Award-winner Nicky Pearson

BEAUTY

Beauty Works boss wins IoD accolade

DETERMINED director Nicky Pearson's beauty business has bounced back after coming close to collapse.

The entrepreneur's Beauty Works firm, set up in 1993, grew quickly and consistently – achieving a turnover of more than £3 million by 2008. But when one of its biggest clients, high-street giant Woolworths, went to the wall later that year, the Dartford business was in danger of going the same way.

Pearson said: "Woolworths had £300,000 worth of our stock and it soon became clear that with the company in administration this money was not going to be paid, so the hit on our cash flow was potentially fatal."

The Zimbabwe-born entrepreneur's company weathered the storm and now boasts a turnover of £5 million.

Pearson's commitment was rewarded earlier this year when she picked up the Institute of Directors' award for London and South East director of the year.

Beauty Works designs and commissions the manufacture of health, fitness and beauty products.

WINE

Royal winemaker's rosé hits the spot

CHAPEL Down winemaker has won a global gold award for its sparkling rosé wine.

The Tenterden vineyard, which supplied wine for the royal wedding, was awarded one of just 400 top prizes from a field of more than 12,000.

Chief executive Frazer Thompson said: "The medal is another great stride forward and an international achievement of which we are very proud. It makes all the hard work worthwhile."

"Good wine starts in the vineyard and is improved by hiring great people. We've invested well. This is our reward."

"Demand has never been higher and this accolade reinforces the quality of the wine that head winemaker Andrew Parley and his team are producing."

Chapel Down Rosé Brut is priced at £24.99 a bottle.

The winery is the country's largest producer of English wines – producing half a million bottles a year – and sources grapes from 260 acres across the South East.

COMMENT

WHAT I would give to be a fly on the wall at the next meeting of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee.

The nine-man committee is deeply divided over the best course of action required to tackle inflation, which has risen to 4.5 per cent – more than double the Government's target figure of 2 per cent.

On one side of the table sit the majority of members, who feel that inflation is being driven by a relatively short-term price shock, fuelled by rising VAT, energy and import prices, and that it will soon start to fall back in line of its own accord.

The other side of the table is made up of MPC members who feel that inflation needs to be brought into line through an interest-rate increase. These economists are concerned that inflation could continue to rise unabated unless action is taken soon.

As things stand, the MPC's democratically-made decision has been to keep interest rates at their record low level.

One wonders how, as the months have gone by and inflation has gone up, just how much tension there has been between the rival camps and opposing ways of thinking.

Predicting the country's financial future is a difficult task, based on little more than educated guesswork. Let's hope that the MPC, or at least the majority of its members, has got its sums right.

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The nine-man MPC committee is deeply divided over the best course of action required to tackle inflation



Outsourcing doesn't have to mean you look abroad

OUTSOURCED accountancy Sollertia Kent is offering businesses an alternative to the traditional finance firms – at just 50 per cent of the cost.

The Chatham Dockyard company provides an out-of-house accounting/finance department service to SMEs across the region.

The company works alongside its clients as a virtual finance director/accounts department, providing payroll, credit control, management accounts, cashflow analysis, tax and year-end accounts off site.

Sollertia Kent founder Philip



ACCOUNTABLE: Sollertia offers outsourced services from the comfort of Kent

Matthewman said: "Many business owners are understandably reticent about handing over their finance functions to an outsourced provider.

"However, we have many years' experience and our systems are designed to be flexible and sit quite happily within different business set-ups. Many larger corporations have already benefited from outsourcing their accounts departments, usually to the Far East.

"Now the team at Sollertia Kent can offer ambitious businesses in London

and Kent a similar opportunity to exploit the cost, time and IT savings of outsourcing and access the expertise of a specialised accounting firm without having to use an offshore call centre."

Sollertia Kent will host a free half-day seminar called How Financial Information Will Drive Your Business Forward at the Ramada Encore, Chatham, on Thursday, July 14, from 9.30am to 12.30pm.

For more information, visit www.kent.outsourcedaccountancy.co.uk.

Know your workers' rights

KEY CHANGES

TEMPORARY employees are set to enjoy rights comparable to their full-time colleagues under new legislation.

The Agency Workers Regulations (AWR), which come into force on October 1, will give part-timers extra rights after 12 weeks in a job.

Research carried out by HR and recruitment firm Adecco shows that industry giants are yet to fully grasp the implications of the regulations.

While 99 per cent of respondents said they had heard of AWR, 57 per cent admitted gaps in knowledge.

More than half described themselves as 'very' or 'quite' concerned about the impact of AWR, while 62 per cent said they feared extra costs.

Forley Page law solicitor Melissa Edmond said firms should put AWR measures in place now. "The regulations provide that, subject to a qualifying period of 12 weeks, an agency worker will be entitled to the same basic working and employment conditions as if the agency worker had been hired directly by the end-user," she said.

"Businesses who use temporary staff and the recruitment agencies they deal with need to be working closely now to

FROM the first day of an agency worker's employment, the employer must ensure they have access to facilities like canteen, childcare and information on job vacancies.

Pregnant agency workers will be allowed to take paid time off for antenatal appointments.

After 12 weeks in the same job, new entitlements relate to pay and other basic working conditions (annual leave, overtime, night work and rest periods). The definition of pay is broad and covers holiday

pay, paid bank holidays, overtime, shift allowances, unsocial-hours premiums and bonuses relating to performance.

Companies who hire workers through an agency will need to provide the agency with up-to-date information on terms and conditions so they can ensure that workers receive the correct equal treatment.

Agencies are responsible for ensuring both worker and hirer are kept informed of changes to pay and entitlement after the qualifying period.

assess the impact of the regulations and identify ways to mitigate any negative consequences.

"Companies who hire temporary agency workers may look to avoid the regulations, accept them or convert agency workers to employees. Legitimate avoidance is likely to be burdensome, and while bringing agency workers in-house may be less costly for end-

users it could be bad news for agencies.

"End-users who value the flexibility of existing arrangements may consider the basic rates of pay for agency workers when the regulations come into force, building the relevant terms and conditions that must be equalised in from the start of an assignment, so the acquisition of Regulation 5 rights after 12 weeks is of no consequence."

Recycling lift as site expansion approved

WASTE management firm TW Services has secured planning permission to build a £22 million recycling centre.

The company will build the depot on its 20-acre site next to the disused Richborough power station, near Sandwich.

The site is expected to handle 750,000 tonnes of waste each year, including food, municipal, green, construction, commercial and industrial, wood and hazardous material.

TW Services bosses said that they expected the energy park to create 80 jobs through construction and operation.

Director Spencer Ray added: "We are providing modern, purpose-designed

facilities creating the essential infrastructure to increase recycling capacity on the site that will handle waste from Dover, Shepway, Thanet and Canterbury for the next 10 years and beyond.

"We are providing a local solution to a local problem," he said. "The site will have an aerobic digester to handle food and green waste and produce compost material, with the gas produced by the process used to generate electricity exported to the national grid.

"Everything will be recycled and we aim to have zero landfill. We will also use waste wood to produce a renewable fuel for power generation – nothing goes to waste any more."

The new facility will receive and process mixed paper, cardboard, plastics, glass and metals.

Construction work is due to begin next month.

TW Services was set up in 1995 by the Ray family – Les and Lorraine and their sons Spencer and Wesley – to provide reliable and cost-effective waste-management services.

The company employs 70 skilled staff and has an extensive range of modern plant and equipment at its waste-processing facility. It says that the planning approval from Kent County Council continues its programme of investment and job-creation.



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'MBA is a way off the coalface'

LECTURER Rajendra Shirolé wants to take experienced businessmen from across the county away from their routine operational environment.

The Kent Business School Masters of Business Administration (MBA) degree programmes director said the school's courses gave experienced managers the chance to step back and see the wood for the trees.

"I think the Kent MBA could be likened to a sabbatical," he said. "Some people are working too close to the coalface, operating and firefighting day to day."

"The skills they have developed during their careers have been acquired locally, either within their organisation or within a small business community.

"But the MBA brings an added dimension. It's not just a cliché 'global' dimension but the very real concept of understanding and appreciating how other people feel."

"By stepping back and taking other perspectives and insights, our MBA graduates are better qualified when they return to work. They are also more equipped to get away from day-to-day coalface activities and engage in something challenging and different from what they have in the past."

Shirolé confessed this broader-thinking approach to business was often not the MBA students' initial objective.

He said: "The students often come focused on simply furthering their career, but they quickly appreciate the diversity of the course, experiencing the multinational environment we offer and differing opinions to their own.

"Of course, the MBA is a qualification aimed at experienced professionals who would like to move on to a new role within their organisation, change company to reach the next level, or perhaps seek out a new career."

"But the MBA is primarily in place for people who want to engage in activities that they are not normally exposed to. Exploring and engaging diversity is the key."

Shirolé took up his current role four years ago, having previously worked in the engineering and international development sectors across the globe, as well as holding positions at Nottingham and Coventry universities.

In his small basement office at the Kent Business School, set in the University of Kent's vast Canterbury campus, the Indian-born, American-raised lec-



HITTING THE NEXT LEVEL: Kent Business School students on the MBA programme

The BIG Interview

Simon Robinson talks to Kent Business School director and lecturer Rajendra Shirolé, who says the school's flagship MBA programme gives professionals the perfect chance to take a step back and build on their skills away from the daily rigours of the job



turer explained precisely what his job description entails.

He said: "My specific role is to manage the Kent MBA, from admissions to graduation. We work on a 12-month cycle, but within that the next year has to be included, so we're often thinking about the next intake of students."

Shirolé is clearly suited to his all-encompassing job, revelling in the fast-paced yet flexible nature of the role, speaking passionately about both the qualifications he presides over and Kent Business School's delivery of the programmes.

"The MBA is Kent Business School's flagship programme and is treated as such. We're a small school that provides a personalised experience for our students, but we're highly rated in our academic space within the country and internationally for the research we do and the talent we bring to the table.

"We have close links to Kent County Council and large organisations such as Barclays, Delphi and Cummins and these relationships are important to us.

"And interest is growing. We're a small programme, but because what we're doing here allows the graduates to have a great impact on their workplace, we're adding value to employees and their businesses, and more people are looking to study on the Kent MBA."

"Applications for admissions grew 30 to 45 per cent last year and we're expecting a bigger increase this year. That's testament to my colleagues participating in the learning effort with me."

Shirolé was due to travel to Geneva last week for the annual MBA three-day conference, attended by professionals from similar accredited business schools across the globe.

He said the trip would give him the opportunity to further develop Kent Business School's courses, a task usually undertaken through discussions with colleagues and students, and one he particularly enjoys.

"One of the best parts of my job is meeting people from all over the world. It's great to find out what drives them, what they do in their current position and what they hope to achieve by completing the MBA. Then it's up to us to provide the students with a good service, something which is critical for us."

"There's excitement every day as each day is different and brings its own challenges. Fortunately, I am able to be quite flexible with how I manage the MBA and ask my students and colleagues for input. That way we always remain innovative."

One of Shirolé's biggest plans for the MBA is to enhance the well-rounded course the school provides.

He said: "I would like the programme to engage learning and creativity and take it to the meta dimension – the MBA is not going to just give someone a new career alone."

"I would like the MBA to become more focused on the liberal arts – issues such as communications, social diversity and engagement in corporate life. I'm a capitalist, but I believe in the social side of capitalism as well."

"I would love the business community to get in touch with me. I have worked with businesses that came to us that didn't know we existed or what we offered, and similarly we didn't know what they offered either. But they were soon saying 'This is a blessing, we never had this opportunity to work with such talented and enthusiastic people from a worldwide audience'."

"That was satisfying as it's extremely important to the MBA to be corporate-facing and engage with businesses."

"We have done extremely well in linking up with businesses and continue to work with them, but we're always interested in working with more Kent firms of any size. We can carry out research and provide invaluable assistance in taking a company to the next stage of its development."

"Some companies we have worked with have been apologetic that they did not know of us, but I think that was partially our fault as we did not talk about ourselves enough. We're getting the message out now."



ENGAGING: Rajendra Shirolé says one of the best parts of his job is meeting people from all over the world and finding out precisely what drives them



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APPRENTICESHIP**100 new jobs
in 100 days**

AN AMBITIOUS apprenticeship challenge calling on Medway businesses to create 100 new positions in 100 days has begun.

The target has been set by Medway Council in association with the National Apprenticeship Service.

A council spokesman said: "Apprenticeships allow businesses to train staff to industry standards and 80 per cent of employers who have apprentices agree that they make their workplace more productive."

"Open to anyone aged over 16, the challenge aims to attract businesses of all sizes, across all sectors, and will give job-seekers a chance to gain trade skills and a recognised qualification while earning a wage."

There are 1,500 apprentices in Medway and more than 200 different types of apprenticeships.

Most of the training takes place on the job, with the rest organised by training providers.

For more details, visit www.medway.gov.uk/medway100.

LECTURE**CBI boss says
Tortoise wins**

CONFEDERATION OF British Industry president Helen Alexander will give an open lecture at the University of Kent next month.

The free speech, titled **In Real Life The Tortoise Loses**, will take place in the Keynes College Lecture Theatre on the Canterbury campus.

As well as heading the UK's top business-lobbying organisation, Alexander is chairwoman of Incisive Media and the Port of London Authority.

She also serves as non-executive director and chair of the remuneration committee at Centrica plc and Rolls-Royce Group plc and senior adviser to Bain Capital.

In addition to her role at the helm of an international business, Alexander has board experience across a range of sectors, being a non-executive director at Northern Foods plc (1994-2002) and BT plc (1998-2002).

The lecture is on Wednesday, June 1, and starts at 6pm.

HEALTH**It pays to stub
out cigarettes**

THE cost of smoking to Kent employers could top £215 million a year, new research has found.

Kent County Council and Kent Stop Smoking Services found that a company with 50 employees could lose £14,358 per year in workers' smoking breaks and extra sick days.

A larger company with 1,000 employees could be losing as much as £287,152 from its balance sheet every year.

Kent Stop Smoking Services spoke to 47 businesses from across the county at a recent business event in a bid to gain a smoking snapshot.

Based on information collected during the day, it was estimated that the combined cost for these companies alone was about £7 million a year.

Firms are now being urged to sign up to the Smokefree Kent Business Awards, offering free advice, tools and support so employers can help any members of staff who might want to quit.

For more information, visit kent.gov.uk/business or email smokefree@kent.gov.uk.



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Web does wonders for three Folkestone firms

By Simon Robinson

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THREE online-operating businesses have been named as e-champions after contributing to the seaside town's booming web-business market.

Leading search engine Google awarded the title to Stuff Back Home, Shaw Rabson And Co and Polska-Anglia, which have all enjoyed huge success with the help of online advertising.

The companies' web activities have bolstered Folkestone's position on the e-commerce map, with Google searches for the coastal town increasing by 20 per cent year on year.

The most popular searches include 'Folkestone hotels', up 40 per cent, and 'Folkestone business', which has risen by 20 per cent.

Tech-savvy estate agent, letting agent and holiday home manager Jo Topliss used Google AdWords to ensure her online adverts appeared alongside search results when potential customers looked for accommodation near the town.

The Shaw Rabson & Co managing director said: "The company was set up more than 25 years ago by my father, and almost three decades later the business is still going strong. "We credit part of this success, and certainly the success of Kent Holiday Homes, to our website, which helped bring us into the digital age.

"We now reach international markets and have certainly noticed an increase in



WEB: Folkestone searches are up 20 per cent year on year

the number of foreign tourists renting accommodation since we set up the website and started advertising online."

Stuff Back Home, which ships British products to expats across the globe, has secured customers in Australia, Japan and the US from an office in Folkestone.

Founder Karen Williams said: "I set up my business just over a year ago, sending well-known British food to expats across the world.

"The internet allows me to operate a global business from Folkestone and online advertising has helped us to reach customers as far away as Japan and Australia."

Polska-Anglia – which helps Polish and Japanese English-language students find places to study in the UK – is also heavily reliant on its online presence.

Searches for summer schools shot up by 50 per cent last month, and with each new

search is a potential new customer for company founder Robert Pasternak.

He said: "I set up my business ten years ago with just £10 in my pocket and it has grown to what it is today thanks to a lot of hard work and online marketing."

"I've been using Google AdWords for a long time to advertise my business to customers in Poland and Japan, which are where most of my clients come from."

"The service gives me great flexibility to target the right customers at the right time and in the right place."

"I'm definitely coming up to my busiest time of the year – as people plan trips to the UK to learn English and searches for summer schools dramatically increase, I make the most of this by advertising online."

Google UK managing director Matt Brittin said Folkestone's e-market was set to go from strength to strength.

"With many local businesses displaying modern business savvy by offering services online, we have recognised Folkestone as one of the top international business centres in the UK."

"Geographically, it is well positioned to be a leader in foreign business, and with more searches around Folkestone rising 20 per cent over summer year on year, more businesses can capitalise on this trend by ensuring that customers can find them when they search online for local products and services."

Plans to end above-inflation train price hikes are on the right track

PROPOSED rail-industry reforms have been cautiously welcomed by the Institute of Directors.

Transport Secretary Philip Hammond's move to end above-inflation fare rises was welcomed by the IoD, but the findings of Sir Roy McNulty, who conducted a review into the industry, were met less enthusiastically.

IoD South director Rodger Broad said: "Rail services and fares are of great concern to companies of all sizes across our region. Millions of workers use the region's rail network to commute to London and other major towns every day. They are the lifeblood of the South East's economy and any review of the industry must recognise that."

Sir McNulty proposed that off-peak fares should rise to encourage commuters to travel on peak-time services, which he said were running with empty seats.

This claim, however, was refuted by the IoD.

Broad said: "It is the experience of our members that there are no empty seats on peak-time services. Indeed, trains right up to the

end of peak hours remain standing-room-only.

"What the Government must acknowledge is that the majority of commuters have very little leeway in the services they use."

"Employers set their working hours so they bring the most benefit to their business. They expect their staff to arrive at a certain time and commuters travel accordingly and often have no option but to use the railway to commute to work."

"In those circumstances, price rises penalising those who travel outside of peak hours amount to little more than an additional tax on work."

Hammond also suggested that responsibility for rural lines could be devolved to local authorities.

"In principle this is a good idea – as long as there is a financial and operational way to protect rural services," said Broad.

"We will be keeping a close watch on how these proposals progress. The South East is the powerhouse of the UK economy, but it is reliant on the commuter rail network to move its millions of workers to where they are needed."

Airport chief's masterplan to revitalise east Kent economy

By Simon Robinson

simon.robinson@archant.co.uk

MANSTON could add £65 million to the east Kent economy by 2018 if the airport's masterplan development is realised, new research has found.

The in-depth study also suggested that the airport would provide direct employment for 2,070 people and a further 1,035 jobs in the wider economy by the same point – helping, it is claimed, to offset Pfizer's withdrawal from nearby Sandwich.

Manston chief executive Charles Buchanan said the airport was working hard to achieve all the goals set out in its ambitious masterplan.

"Our aspiration is to have aircraft actually based at the airport as this would significantly increase the number of routes we could serve and passengers arriving and departing from Manston," he said.

"Persuading airlines to base planes at the airport would generate further local employment opportunities for cabin crew and additional airport jobs.

"Despite the current economic situation we remain confident airlines will choose Manston and build upon our Flybe services and charter services.

"The research examined the viability of the airport's masterplan



AMBITIOUS: Manston chief executive Charles Buchanan says that expanding the airport's services could only be a good thing for east Kent

and concluded that the aspiration to become a sustainable South East regional airport could only be achieved by Manston ensuring it has a mix of passenger and freight services using the airport."

York Aviation, which carried out the research, found that the airport

would need to operate between 11pm and 7am if it was to attract low-cost airlines to Manston as well as handle greater levels of freight from around the world.

This would go some way to giving Manston the necessary pulling power to accommodate 2.2 million pas-

engers and 167,000 tonnes of freight per year by 2018.

Buchanan said: "We recognise that the issue of night flights is a high-profile one within the district and we are currently developing our detailed proposal and hope to be in a position to submit it shortly, and

then for public consultation to begin."

York Aviation is in the process of finalising the second part of the research, which will assess the impact that the imposition of a stringent night-movement policy would have on the airport's economic impact and commercial operation.

6699

Persuading airlines to base planes at the airport will generate employment opportunities

CHARLES BUCHANAN

Building blocks in place as firm distributes miniature Lego-style toys to county outlets

TOY importer Asholay Distribution has secured the exclusive UK rights for miniature building blocks.

The Bedford firm, which specialises in innovative games and gadgets from across the globe, has already began placing the Japanese Nanoblocks with retailers across the country.

Fenwick department store and firebox.com are among the first to take shipments of the tiny Lego-style toys.

The smallest of the Nanoblocks is a mere 4mm x 4mm x 5mm, allowing users to create detailed 3D miniature models.

Asholay Distribution chief executive Ashley Yeates, from Medway, said: "We are already seeing a broad range of appeal with Nanoblocks, from the young at heart to the hobbyist, and models can be built and displayed on anything from a child's bookshelf to a desk in the office."

"We already have more than 20 different sets available in the UK and I am excited to report we have many more on the way, including UK-specific items."

"The great thing with Nanoblock is that you're not limited to building the



MINIATURE CONSTRUCTION: Nanoblocks, invented in Japan, allow users to create highly-detailed 3D miniature models

packaged models – with just 11 brick types, the product retains a basic construction style so the adventurous who want to build their own creations are limited only by their imagination."

There are three series currently available in the UK: the Miniature Collection, which contains popular animals and instruments, the Sights To See, which includes famous

landmarks from around the globe and, for the real enthusiast, the Advanced Hobby series, with models having up to 5,800 pieces and taking 20 hours to build.

Build cross-border contacts at BWL

COMPANIES looking to enter the international marketplace are being invited to attend this year's Business Week Live event on Wednesday, October 26.

The one-day exhibition and conference, held at the Dover Cruise Exhibition Centre, will feature an International Business arena packed with overseas exhibitors, trade organisations and buying delegations.

Guest speakers have been lined up to give presentations on imports and exports, while workshops will guide businesses through what is often perceived as a complex process.

The International Business space has been created in response to the Government's five-year plan to boost trade and investment in the UK.

Christine Davidson, commercial director at Archant KOS Media, said: "It makes absolute sense that the business community in Kent maximise the chance to build cross-border relationships and develop and build export and import activities."

"The climate is still challenging for the county and beyond, and competition to win contracts therefore remains fierce."

For more information, call Sallie Payne on 01303 817056 or email sallie.payne@archant.co.uk.

Keep Kent Working!

2011
Campaign

It's jobs for Kent

Housebuilder looking for 20 apprentices

HOUSEBUILDER Redrow is offering apprenticeships to young people in Kent hoping for a career in the construction industry.

The firm, which has sites in Tonbridge and Maidstone, has 20 places available and is inviting applications for a programme that combines on-the-job paid work with an NVQ qualification completed over three years.

Wannabe bricklayers and carpenters are sought in particular, but other trades including plumbing will also be considered.

Redrow HR director Karen Jones said: "It is vital for our industry that we continue to invest in training, even during testing economic times, to ensure we do not experience a skills shortage in years to come."

"We want to select the most promising candidates who are motivated to learn and want to make a career in the industry."

"Our company mantra is 'our pride, your joy' and we want all our staff, including our apprentices, to take pride in their work so our customers can experience the joy of owning a home built by quality craftsmen."

Figures released earlier this month by the Office on National Statistics revealed that unemployment among 16-24-year-olds is at near record levels.

Last year Redrow took on 50 new trainees to do its bit in tackling the problem, which was more than double the numbers for the previous two years combined.

One of the successful candidates was 18-year-old Alex Frostick, who is nearly a year into a three-year plumbing apprenticeship with the firm.

He said: "I'm really enjoying my apprenticeship and it's teaching me lots of things I wouldn't be able to learn in the classroom."

"It's real-life work and you have to take everything on board you are being taught so you can do the work to a high standard."



By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

A CHARITY offering support to young people who want to set up their own businesses is promoting the 'fourth option' to school-leavers.

The Kent Foundation for Young Entrepreneurs says teachers often push three choices on their pupils – go to university, get a job, or be unemployed – when there is actually an alternative in working for themselves.

"It's not for everyone but a lot of people are not told about or encouraged to follow up this fourth option," said director Paul Barron.

"We're hoping to spread the message that just because unemployment is rising, it doesn't mean you have to go on the dole."

"It's all about giving young people the opportunity. There's already a great entrepreneurial spirit in Kent and I think for younger people it's about making them aware that setting up their own business is a serious option for them."

"And while it might not work out for everyone, we need to spread the message that it doesn't mean you are a failure if you don't go to university."

The Kent Foundation for Young Entrepreneurs was founded in 1985 with the aim of ensuring young people receive the support they need to be successful in starting and growing a business.

Kent County Council offers a range of resources to the Maidstone-based charity including the secondment of staff, office facilities and direct contact with many of its corporate services.

Mr Barron said: "We relaunched in 2008 and since then we've helped several busi-

nesses that are still working out OK.

"Generally three years is a little too soon to say a business is doing fantastically well, but the fact they're surviving in the current financial climate is a success in itself."

"You've got to be enterprising to get on; that's very important, whether it's for somebody else or for your own business."

"We've been through a recession and the chances of getting a good job aren't what they were five years ago, so why not give setting up your own business a go?"

Earlier this month a group of fundraisers took part in a parachute jump to raise more than £2,000 for YourSpace – a business incubation service in Gravesend made available through the foundation.

Among those who took the plunge at Headcorn Aerodrome were Matt Hobbs, Tara Humphrey and three members of staff from the Maidstone-based design and new media agency Tangerine.

Mr Barron said: "We are extremely grateful to Matt, Tara and the Tangerine team for their continued support."

"For many young people, getting a good start on the employment ladder is impossible. The 'fourth option' aims to help them achieve their career goals in the early stages so they may contribute to Kent's economy rather than relying on others or becoming a burden on society."

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email steve.knight@archant.co.uk or give him a call on 01303 817136.



SKYDIVE: Tara Humphrey, Carina Watson and Celine Terry took a dive for charity



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Last chance for older generation to learn internet skills in Sheppey

JUST days remain for silver surfers to 'spring online' as part of a campaign run by the Isle of Sheppey-based Island Partnership.

People who would like to learn more about computers, even if they have never touched one before, are invited to drop into the charity's office in Trinity Road, Sheerness, for a free beginners' computer course.

The Spring Online campaign, which aims to help the over-50s find out what the

internet can do for them, has been running all month and ends on Tuesday.

Island Partnership centre manager Paul West revealed that one-in-five people aged 55-64 have never used the internet, rising to three-in-five of those aged over 65.

He said: "For many people computers and the internet can be confusing and a little scary, but they can also open up new opportunities and even whole new worlds."

"From keeping in touch with friends and family to saving money or pursuing interests and hobbies, we can use technology to help us do whatever we want to do."

"Everyone and anyone can get to grips with computers, and we'll be on hand to help you get started with our free and easy courses for beginners."

The Island Partnership is open from 9am-4.30pm on weekdays. Call 01795 596700.

Motor course students on the right road

PETROLHEADS from MidKent College's motor vehicle department received a taste of working life with a trip to a local car dealership.

The visit to Ford's Dagenham Motors site in Gillingham enabled the students to see first-hand how their college training relates to the real-world motor trade.

Service manager David Austen revealed how the youngsters were given a tour of the showroom and body shop before being introduced to the branch's master technician.

He said: "Young mechanics from the college were then shown some of the latest features of our new Ford Focus, including its innovative self-park function that enables it to reverse-park into a space without the aid of the driver."

"The visit gave students a valuable chance to see what goes on within a real working environment and to learn about the processes used within the workshop and showroom of this type of car dealership."

MidKent College's motor vehicle courses are delivered from purpose-built workshops - including engineering and body repair facilities - at the college's Maidstone campus.

A range of full and part-time courses are on offer, with successful completion potentially leading to employment within the motor trade following an apprenticeship, advanced apprenticeship, or entry to further education and training or university.

Depending on the level and type of course undertaken, students can develop their manual



FOCUS: David Austen with motoring students

skills, remove and fit basic body and related ancillary components, develop basic preparation and refinishing skills, practise basic engineering fabrication skills, and/or gain a thorough understanding of vehicle systems.

Student Simon Spencer, 17, said: "What we've seen here (at Dagenham Motors) ties in directly with our course so it's been good to talk to the technicians about the work they do."

"I can definitely see myself working somewhere like this once I have completed my course."

Activity fun day gives pupils hope for future

YOUNG people with learning difficulties took part in a fun activity day designed to promote the benefits of college and supported employment.

Last week's Special Choices event at the Rare Breeds Centre in Ashford was organised by Education Business Partnership Kent, a Broadstairs-based charity which aims to equip youngsters with a better understanding of personal skills and their future choices.

Colleges and employers ran

interactive workshops to give those who attended an experience of what they might expect if they continue their studies past special school level.

The event was sponsored by Barclays Bank and Kent County Council.

KCC cabinet member for education, learning and skills Cllr Sarah Hohler said: "This event provided a great opportunity for young people to learn important life skills and to find out about further education."

Clarification on Ken Wildman

LAST week we reported on the success of Folkestone fitness instructor Ken Wildman, who won an award as part of Adult Learners' Week.

In the article we incorrectly said that Mr Wildman's dyslexia had forced him to quit an Open University course, when the OU is in fact continuing to support him towards a foundation degree in sport, fitness and management.

We are happy to set the record straight and apologise for any confusion caused.

BUSINESS TRAINING SOLUTIONS

MidKent College's dedicated training consultancy provides a professional service that is dedicated to the needs of local companies. Training courses can be delivered in-company or in the first class facilities available at the College.

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DYSPRAXIA AWARENESS

7 June 2011, 9.00 - 12.30pm

INTRODUCTION TO ADD/ADHD

26 May 2011, 9.00 - 12.30pm

CYBER BULLYING

15 June 2011, 9.00 - 12.30pm

BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

15 June 2011, 9.00 - 12.30pm

ANXIETY AND MOOD DISORDERS

21 June 2011, 9.00 - 12.30pm

INTRODUCTION TO ASD

17 June 2011, 9.00 - 12.30pm

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INTRODUCTION TO DYSLEXIA AND EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR WORKING WITH DYSLEXIC STUDENTS

17 May 2011, 9.30 - 3.30pm

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For more information, please contact the Training Solutions Team on 01843 605032 or email training.solutions@thanet.ac.uk



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The Woodville Centre, Canterbury, Kent

Kent Autistic Trust is proud to announce that a new day vocational centre is about to open in Canterbury. The new centre will have facilities to support adults with Autism Spectrum Condition with activities at the venue itself, and in the local community at colleges and clubs, shops and leisure facilities. Woodville will provide support and day centre facilities seven days a week from 7.30am to 1pm which requires these post holders to have on-call responsibilities. The centre will also have facilities in the future for respite support.

CENTRE MANAGER

A fantastic opportunity has arisen for an experienced, motivated and committed individual to be in this key role of setting up and managing this exciting new day service at the Woodville Centre, Canterbury. You will start up, develop and oversee the services which support the Trust's vision of providing individual bespoke care appropriate to each individual's care needs. Initially, this role will require you working 'hands on'. For this position you should have:

- experience in a learning disabilities setting, including management of autism and learning disabilities services, developing the services of the centre in partnership with the community.
- leading and supporting a team of staff, particularly if you have helped staff through a period of change, or when setting up a service. You must have NVQ level III in Health and Social Care or an equivalent qualification, and the willingness to work towards NVQ Level IV.

The salary will be £22,000 - £24,000 per annum, depending on experience and qualifications, and the hours 37.5 per week.

Closing date 3.6.11. Interviews will be held on 16th June 2011.

DEPUTY CENTRE MANAGER

This position would suit a person who has sound experience of working with people with autism and learning disabilities, and would like to embark on a new challenge by supporting the Centre Manager in setting up and managing the service at the Woodville Centre. Initially, this role will require you working 'hands on'. You would need:

- An NVQ III in Health and Social Care or an equivalent qualification with proven experience in autism, supporting people with learning disabilities and in supporting other staff.

The salary will be £17,490 - £18,939 per annum, depending on experience and qualifications, and the hours 37.5 per week.

Closing date 3.6.11. Interviews will be held on 16th June 2011.

Applications welcome for consideration for future positions at Woodville. Please look at the website www.kentautistic.com for recruitment opportunities to the Trust.

FLEXIBANK - CASUAL STAFF

Would you prefer to retain flexibility and be able to make choices that suit you and your private life, regarding time and location of work - then why not join our Flexibank? Hourly rates of pay: Waking Night Casual Worker £9.54, Sleep-in Night Casual Worker £28.73 per night. Senior Casual Worker £8.42 / Weekend rate: £8.93 - candidate must have at least 12 months experience of working within Social Care. Casual Care Worker £7.14 / Weekend rate: £7.65. no previous experience required.

For further information about these positions, and for an application pack, please contact Jeanette Grundy, Human Resources Manager on 01634 405168 or email humanresources@kentautistic.com

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NIGHT SUPPORT WORKER

A position of night support worker has become available. For this position it will be necessary to have general experience in social care. The salary will be £13,505 per annum and the hours are 37.5 hours per week.

FLEXIBANK - CASUAL STAFF

Would you prefer to retain flexibility and be able to make choices that suit you and your private life, regarding time and location of work - then why not join our Flexibank? Hourly rates of pay: Waking Night Casual Worker £9.54, Sleep-in Night Casual Worker £28.73 per night. Senior Casual Worker £8.42 / Weekend rate: £8.93 - candidate must have at least 12 months experience of working within Social Care. Casual Care Worker £7.14 / Weekend rate: £7.65. no previous experience required.

Closing date for the above positions is 3.6.11. Interviews will be held on 17.6.11.

Please look at the website www.kentautistic.com for recruitment opportunities within the Trust.

For further information about these positions, and for an application pack, please contact Jeanette Grundy, Human Resources Manager on 01634 405168 or email humanresources@kentautistic.com



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Written application with CV to Pauline Stirrups at pauline@thepumppeople.co.uk

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HGV I & 2 (C/C+E) CPC'S HIAB OPERATORS REQUIRED ON FULL TIME BASIS

Due to expansion of the business we require for immediate start CPCs Certified Lorry Loader Operators with Class 2 / CAT C licence (Class 1 / C+E Preferred but not essential) The successful individuals will present themselves well, be punctual, good time keepers and have good knowledge within the industry. The positions that have become available will be to drive/operate a Hiab Vehicle on a full time basis from our Northfleet Depot. A CPCs Slinger/Signaller Certificate is a advantage but training can be provided. In return we offer the best rates of pay within the industry for our specialised sector and the opportunity to work with a good team and up and coming company.

Please contact our Office on 0845 304 7121 for an interview or alternatively please forward your CV to vacancies@wbservicesuk.co.uk

FULL TIME EXPERIENCED CHEF
required for busy Pub Restaurant.
Also
LUNCH TIME WAITING STAFF required

Please ring Sandra at
The Black Lion, Appledore 01233 758206

FULL TIME SALES REPRESENTATIVE
required for a busy company in Southborough, Kent. Knowledge of internal industrial/office fit outs essential, including Mezzanine Floors and Partitioning. Full, clean driving licence required. Remuneration negotiable and dependant upon experience.

Please email your c.v. to Vicki Robinson - VR@gmail.biz

Trainee Draughtsperson

We are a well established aluminium window, doors and curtain wall manufacturer and installer and we are looking for a trainee draughtsman to assist in the growth of our company. Must have some working knowledge of Autocad packages and a background in the Construction Industry.

Further education in the form of day release will be encouraged.

Please call for further information 01622 882345
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HEAD CHEF

A vacancy has arisen for a talented Head Chef with at least two years experience to produce imaginative food using fresh local produce, as well as pub favourites at this attractive pub in the town of Tenterden.

This live-out position offers a competitive benefits package including an excellent salary plus bonus scheme.

Please E-mail your CV and a covering letter to: ireece@shepherd-neame.co.uk or telephone Linda on 01795 542132. Quote Vine.

SALES DESIGNER

Required at large manufacturer in Kent

Person needs to be experienced in Orangeries and Conservatories. Experience with laptop designing. Knowledge of current building practices, planning and building regulations. Must have own transport, laptop and mobile phone. Excellent package for the right candidate.

For more information please contact Ian Cousins on: 01843 850500 or email CV to: ian.elephantwindows@gmail.com



The Electrical Inspection and Testing Specialists

Require a

Company Administrator

Temporary Contract To Cover Maternity Leave - Salary Negotiable Dependant On Experience



Excellent communication and organisational skills essential and must be fluent in the use of Word, Excel and Access programmes. Duties will include being the main point of contact for all incoming telephone enquiries, booking appointments and arranging engineers, maintaining and updating access databases, preparing quotations, carrying out report typing, general correspondence and other ad-hoc administration duties.

Please apply in writing to Quantec, 1 The Oaks Revenge Road, Lordswood, Chatham Kent ME5 8LF or Telephone 01634 865750

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Please apply in writing with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to:

Ynez Coton, Commercial Director,
ARCHANT KOS MEDIA
Apple Barn, Hythe Rd
Smeeth, Ashford Kent. TN25 6SS
Or email: ynez.coton@archant.co.uk

ARCHANT} KOS MEDIA

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FIXED TERM UNTIL 31ST DECEMBER 2011

To teach across a range of courses and study programmes with an emphasis on Performing Arts within the Creative and Visual Arts Section and to deliver high quality education and training.

SALARY SCALE: £12,795 - £15,103 FOR 18.5 HOURS PER WEEK, ALL YEAR

SCIENCE TECHNICIAN

To provide technical support to both staff and students, to demonstrate equipment and practical techniques and to supervise students, ensuring a safe and healthy environment for all.

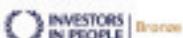
**SALARY SCALE: £6,195 - £6,897 FOR 18.5 HOURS PER WEEK,
36 WEEKS PER YEAR**

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'About Us', then 'Vacancies'.

If you require assistance please telephone our application line an (01843) 605052

Closing date for the above posts:: Wednesday 1st June 2011

Promoting Equality Preventing Discrimination



Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Project Manager

37 hours per week
Maidstone

Ref: PRO01

We are currently in the early stages of a £23 million development programme to upgrade our Maidstone Campus for which we are tendering for a Project Director on a consultancy basis. This is an in-house appointment to act as the project lead from 1st August 2011. The external project management team will report to you for the duration of the contract which is expected to conclude in March 2014. Interested parties will be required to propose the precise time required for successful delivery of the project, however it is anticipated that this will be in the region of 10 to 12 days a month subject to the needs of specific projects. You will be responsible for the successful delivery of a range of projects within the overall development programme including substantial reconfiguration and refurbishment of existing premises, potential estate acquisitions and disposals, decent and relocation.

The appointment process for the above role will be managed via our InTend portal. To set yourself up as a potential supplier you will need to register on the site. <https://intendhost.co.uk/fe> (please select business category 'W - Estates and Buildings').

Expressions of Interest will need to be made via that site by 10th June with tender bids in by 1st July.

Lecturer in Human Resources and Management Ref: P0422

Salary: £30,718 - £34,005 pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)
25.9 hours per week
Maidstone

MidKent College has a long history of successfully preparing candidates for the very demanding CIPD national examinations and the rigorous requirements of the CMI programmes. We are now looking for someone who is committed to excellence in teaching to join the team. The successful candidate will have extensive professional experience in HRM and be able to use that experience to enhance their credibility in the classroom. Ideally you will be a Chartered Member of the CIPD but candidates in the final stages of gaining chartered status will be considered

Lecturer in Business

Salary: £ 26,336 - £29,618 pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)
22.2 hours per week
Maidstone

A lecturer is required to teach on our successful one-year and two-year Business A-level courses. In addition the successful candidate may be required to teach some BTEC Business at level 3. We are looking for an experienced Lecturer who is committed to excellence and is able to undertake the responsibilities of a Course Tutor.

CLOSING DATE: 31 May 2011

MidKent College and RBLI Employment Solutions are working in partnership to support disabled applicants. For assistance please contact RBLI on 0800783114 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk

For an application pack and further details visit www.midkent.ac.uk or e mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively you may contact Human Resources on 01634 383102.

The College is committed to safeguarding children and young people therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a CRB check.

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Westlands Academies Trust



THE WESTLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL
Homewood Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1XN

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Required for July or September 2011

To work at The Westlands Primary School, Homewood Avenue
Applicants should have the necessary skills to support pupils who have various learning difficulties in mainstream classes, in small groups or on an individual basis.

27 hours a week, term time only.
Kent Pay Band 2/3 £12,903 - £15,984 (pro rata)
(equal to £7,765 - £9,619 depending on experience)

You are welcome to contact the school for a preliminary discussion if desired.
Recruitment packs are available from the school or online. Please note, we cannot accept CVs without an application form.

Closing date: Friday 10 June 2011

Westlands Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.
This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Tel: 01795 470862 Fax: 01795 477886
Email: Imp@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Head of School: Mrs L Pearson BSc Hons

Westlands Academies Trust Westlands Avenue Sittingbourne Kent ME10 4QZ
Company No 7344732



PLANNING

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL Town and Country Planning Act Notice of Applications

MA/11/0065/S - FORSTAL HOUSE, MAIDSTONE ROAD, YALDING, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 6PY - Creation of new vehicle access and drive including change of use of land to residential and associated works. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/0195/N - BRENCHLEY GARDENS, STATION ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1QJ - An application for listed building consent for installation of low profile skate stop devices to steps at base of Brenchley Gardens war Memorial as shown on Conservation statement received 11/02/11 and site location plan and manufacturer's specification received 27/04/11. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/0196/N - BRENCHLEY GARDENS, STATION ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1QJ - Installation of low profile skate stop devices to steps at base of Brenchley Gardens war Memorial as shown on Conservation statement received 11/02/11 and site location plan and manufacturer's specification received 27/04/11. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/11/0396/S - MOCKBEGGAR OAST, COLLIER STREET, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9RJ - Erection of a detached four bay garage to replace existing outbuildings. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/0552/S - THE STABLES, WILLOW LANE, PADDOCK WOOD, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 6PF - Erection of a rear extension and introduction of additional roof lights to existing building, and alterations to parking layout. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/0613/N - HONYWOOD FARM, WEST STREET, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2EP - An application for listed building consent for internal alterations, including removal of ceiling joists at first floor, alterations to first floor structure including removal and replacement of first floor partitions and stairs. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/0614/S - CLOTHWORKERS COTTAGE, LOWER ROAD, SUTTON VALENCE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3BL - Erection of a part two storey, part single storey rear extension, with roof terrace, plus new vehicular access and drive. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/0643/N - MERRIAMS FARM, CARING LANE, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1TJ - Alterations to Hill Barn to form living accommodation, renovation/replacement of long barn to form garaging and provision of glazed link, all ancillary to existing dwelling. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/0645/N - MERRIAMS FARM, CARING LANE, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1TJ - An application for listed building consent for alterations to Hill Barn to form living accommodation and renovation/replacement of Long Barn to form garaging, plus provision of glazed link. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/0651/S - THATCHERS, BENOVER ROAD, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6AS - An application for listed building consent for the erection for a two storey rear extension and internal alterations to bathroom. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/0652/S - THATCHERS, BENOVER ROAD, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6AS - Erection for a two storey rear extension. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/0676/N - 51, YEOMAN WAY, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 8PH - Single storey side and rear extensions and addition of bay windows. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/0686/S - CLARKES FARM, FIVE OAK LANE, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 0HX - An application for listed building consent for refurbishment and alterations including reordering of the internal layout, formation of new internal openings, insertion of new fenestration, enlargement of existing openings, introduction of damp proof course and repairs to fabric. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/0687/S - CLARKES FARM, FIVE OAK LANE, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 0HX - Refurbishment and alterations including erection of single storey extension to east elevation and alteration to the fenestration. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/0699/S - BOCKINGFORD COURT, CRIPPLE STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6DN - An application for listed building consent for the removal of an existing extension and erection of replacement extension, and internal and external alterations. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/0709/S - PLOT 10, WILSON COURT, YALDING, KENT, ME18 6JN - Erection of 1no. detached dwelling and associated works. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/11/0710/S - INWOOD, WELL STREET, LOOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0EW - Erection of a greenhouse. **Reason: 1**

Reasons for advertisement key:

- 1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
- 2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
- 3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.



Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **12th June 2011**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 29th May 2011

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

KCC/TW/0161/2011 - PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT CLAREMONT PRIMARY SCHOOL, BANNER FARM ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, KENT, TN2 5EB.

Kent County Council is applying to the Kent County Council for planning permission for the placement of one, six-bay modular building. The proposed development is adjacent to the Tunbridge Wells Conservation Area and is likely to affect its character and/or appearance, and also affects the setting of a listed building.

You may view this application at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB or at our offices at the address below during all reasonable office hours. Alternatively, details of the application can be viewed on the County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/planning

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 29 May 2011



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PLANNING

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

11/00977/FUL School Farm Cranbrook Road, Benenden

- Temporary erection of a yurt for six months April - September each year for the purposes of fund raising and environmental education days for UK schools and international guests (LB)

11/01387/LBC Dingleden House Dingleden, Benenden

- Listed Building Consent: Demolition of brick chimney stack to ridge level to enable repairs to unstable internal brickwork and rebuilding same with a new Kent cowl (LB)

11/01388/HOUSE Meri Cottage Ide Green Road, Benenden

- First floor rear extension, rebuilding of ground floor garden room, replacement garage building (CA)

11/01363/LBC Wyatts Rectory Drive, Bidborough

- Listed Building Consent: Replacement guttering and drain pipes (LB)

11/01406/FULMJ Moat Farm Whetsted Road, Capel

- Extension to packhouse to replace existing outside storage area and cold stores (LB) (MAJOR)

11/01326/FUL 39A Grosvenor Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden

- Conversion of 1 three bedroom flat into 2 one bedroom flats (CA)

11/01394/HOUSE Whitsunden Barn Cranbrook Road, Frittenden

- Construction of housing for installation of wood burning appliance, log storage cupboards and installation of stainless steel flue (PROW)

11/01399/HOUSE Charity Oast Headcorn Road, Frittenden

- Demolition of oil store and erection of two storey side extension (LB) (CA)

11/01398/HOUSE Clifton House The Moor, Hawkhurst

- Single-storey rear orangery (CA)

11/01409/FUL Marlborough House School High Street, Hawkurst

- Extension to classrooms at rear to form store and infill open corridor at front (LB)

11/01371/FULMJ OS Plot 7526 Furnace Lane, Horsmonden

- Change of use of land to equestrian and construction of stable building and sand school (MAJOR)

11/01181/HOUSE 4 Buckingham Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks

- Rear extension, internal alterations and garden walls (CA)

11/01436/HOUSE Rumford Manor Romford Road, Pembury

- Construction of tennis court with retaining walls and fencing (LB)

11/01320/LBC 1 Lower Green Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Rusthall

- Listed Building Consent: Replacement of white plastic double glazed windows and doors with timber, single rebate, single glazed, individually leaded windows and doors (LB)

11/01354/FUL Grove House Holden Road, Southborough North

- Addition of new rear orangery to partially completed approved new house (LB) (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 28 May 2011

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Accounts Administrator

Canterbury

Salary Negotiable

To apply/more information:

canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk

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Administrator and PA to Doctor

Canterbury

Salary TBC

To apply/more information:

canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk

Quoting Job Ref: Acc1

Finance Manager / Admin

London

Salary TBC

To apply/more information:

3000@armil.co.uk

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BOOKKEEPER

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To apply/more information:

01708 380 444

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To apply/more information:

summerjobs@andrews-sykes.com

Quoting Job Ref: kos

Receptionist / Customer Service

Canterbury

Salary 14k

To apply/more information:

canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk

Quoting Job Ref: Rec Aug10

Finance Manager / Admin

North/Mid Kent

Salary TBC

To apply/more information:

Centronic Ltd

GBrongley@centronic.co.uk

Quoting Job Ref: Archant KOS Media

Sales Administrator

London

Salary Negotiable

To apply/more information:

Bene Care

sr@beneicareit.co.uk

Quoting Job Ref: kos

OFFICE MANAGER

Sevenoaks

Salary Dependent on experience

To apply/more information:

Centronic Ltd

GBrongley@centronic.co.uk

Quoting Job Ref: kos

Front of House Administrator

London

Salary Negotiable

To apply/more information:

Garden County Vending

Mail@

gardencountyvending.co.uk

Quoting Job Ref: kos

PA

Maidstone

Salary Negotiable

ROUTE OPERATOR

Maidstone

Salary £12,854 PER ANNUM

To apply/more information:

Garden County Vending

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Quoting Job Ref: kos

Performing Arts Lecturer

Ramsgate

Salary £12,795 - £15,103

To apply/more information:

Thanet College

personnel@thanet.ac.uk

Quoting Job Ref: kos

Outreach Worker

London

Salary 21375-23277

To apply/more information:

racheal.inns@altmore.newham.sch.uk

Quoting Job Ref: kos

Catering, Hospitality

Ramsgate

Salary £12,795 - £15,103

To apply/more information:

Thanet College

personnel@thanet.ac.uk

Quoting Job Ref: kos

Performing Arts Lecturer

Ramsgate

Salary £12,795 - £15,103

To apply/more information:

Thanet College

personnel@thanet.ac.uk

Quoting Job Ref: kos

Child Care

Nursery Nurse

London

Salary TBC

To apply/more information:

020 8505 6565

Quoting Job Ref: kos

Agriculture, Forestry, Environment

Gardener

London

Salary TBC

To apply/more information:

020 8346 2321

Quoting Job Ref: kos

Family Support Worker

London

Salary £12,795

To apply/more information:

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Ashford**A2042 BAD MUNSTEREIFEL ROAD, ASHFORD (40 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

For the safety of the public and workforce whilst water mains replacement works are carried out, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to impose a temporary mandatory speed limit of 40 mph on the eastbound carriageway of the A2042 Bad Munstereifel Road, Ashford.

The section affected is from the junction with Romney Marsh Road to where it becomes designated as the A2070 Trunk Road.

This Order comes into force on or after 19 June 2011 for up to 18 weeks or until the works have been completed.

BRIDGE STREET, WYE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of urgent carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bridge Street, Wye, on or after 19 June 2011 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the level crossing and the bridge over the river.

There will be no access for through traffic from Harville Road / Bramble Lane into the village of Wye.

The alternative route is via Bridge Street, Churchfield Way, High Street, Upper Bridge Street, Oxentrun Road, Naccolt Road, Hinxhill Road, The Street (Willesborough), A2070 Kennington Road & Willesborough Road, A28 Canterbury Road and Harville Road.

WIND HILL LANE, CHARING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Wind Hill Lane, Charing, on or after 13 June 2011 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Lodge Road and Egerton Road.

The alternative route is via Lodge Road and Egerton Road.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury**ST STEPHEN'S LEVEL CROSSING, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of track maintenance and renewal works at St Stephen's Level Crossing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on St Stephen's Road, Canterbury, on or after 4 June 2011 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the level crossing.

The alternative route is via St Stephen's Road, Station Road West, St Dunstan's Street, Forty Acres Road, Beaconsfield Road and St Stephen's Green.

It is planned the closure will take effect from Saturday 4 June 2011 at 11.30 pm until Monday 6 June 2011 at 5.00 am.

This Order remains in force for up to 18 months and can be re-implemented if required for works of a similar nature.

SWEETCHBRIDGE ROAD, HERNE BAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Sweechbridge Road, Herne Bay, on or after 31 May 2011 for up to 6 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junction with May Street and the railway bridge.

The alternative route is via A299 Thanet Way, B2205 Margate Road and Reculver Road.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford**VARIOUS ROADS, DARTFORD - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is carried out on

or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on various roads, Dartford as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 30th May 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 5th June 2011 and last 1 day between 07.30 – 10.30. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

Schedule 1

Road Name: St Clements Way
Extent: Northbound traffic prohibited between Bluewater Parkway and A2026 roundabout

Road Name: A2026 Crossways Boulevard
Extent: Westbound traffic prohibited between St Clements Way and B3228 Cotton Lane

Road Name: B3228 Cotton Lane
Extent: Southbound traffic prohibited between A2026 Crossways Boulevard and A226 London Road

Road Name: Cotton Lane
Extent: No left turn onto B3228 Cotton Lane

Road Name: A226 London Road
Extent: Eastbound traffic prohibited between B3228 Cotton Lane and St Clements Way

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate Bluewater Sweatshop 10k.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, DOVER) (WEIGHT LIMIT RESTRICTION) (AMENDMENT NO. 1) ORDER 2011**

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under Sections 1, 2(4) and part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to prohibit any person to cause any vehicle capable of exceeding 7.5 tonnes gross weight from using the following roads subject to exemptions for loading and unloading, emergency service vehicles and public service vehicles:

Name of Road	Length of road affected
Old Folkestone Road	From the junction with the A20 Western Heights Roundabout to the junction with South Military Road
South Military Road	Entire Length
Centre Road	Entire Length
North Military Road	Entire Length
Durham Hill	Entire Length

The Order was Sealed on 23rd May 2011 and will come into force on 30th May 2011.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a Statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be examined at the Council Offices of Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Dover, Kent and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

HIGHWAYS - District of East Kent**VARIOUS ROADS, KENT (50 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

To allow maintenance works to be carried out in safety on high speed roads, Kent County Council has made an Order imposing a temporary mandatory speed limit of 50 mph on Various Roads, Kent, on or after 4 April 2011 for up to 1 year or until the works have been completed.

The roads affected are as shown below.

A299 THANET WAY – From M2 Brenley Corner Roundabout to B2190 Minster Road roundabout

A28 CANTERBURY ROAD, THANET – From A299 Thanet Way to Seamark Road, Birchington

A256 DOVER ROAD – From A2 to the Dover Road roundabout

A256 SANDWICH BYPASS – From Stoner Cut Bridge to the A257 Sandwich Road Roundabout

LYDDEN HILL, LYDDEN, DOVER – From junction with Swanton Lane to junction with A2

A2042 ROMNEY MARSH ROAD, ASHFORD – From the A2070 Bad Munstereifel Road to Roundabout with Malcolm Sargent Road

From the roundabout with Malcolm Sargent Road to the existing 40mph speed restriction 250 metres from the Forestall Meadow Roundabout

From the roundabout with Malcolm Sargent Road to the existing 40mph speed restriction 250 metres south of the roundabout with the B229 Norman Road

A20 FOUGERES WAY, ASHFORD – from A20 Maidstone Road (Drovers Roundabout) to roundabout at Junction 9 of the M20

A20 MAIDSTONE ROAD, ASHFORD – From Orchard Heights Roundabout to the junction with Sandyhurst Lane. This Order is in force on the respective roads when the relevant signs are displayed on site.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE)****(PROHIBITION OF STOPPING ON THE FOOTWAY OR VERGE)****(VARIATION NO 1) ORDER 2011**

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under Sections 1 (1) and (2), 2 (1) to 3, 3 (2) and 4 and part IV of Schedule 9 section 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to introduce prohibition of waiting or stopping on the Footway or Highway Verge on the following lengths of road:-

MAIDSTONE

Name of Road	Length of road affected
Beaver Road	On both sides from the junction with Juniper Close to the most easterly and westerly extremities.
Corben Close	Entire length both sides
Poplar Grove	On both sides from the junction with A20 London Road to the junction with Hazelwood Drive
Maxwell Drive	Entire length both sides

A copy of the proposed Order, statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, a map indicating the location and the effect and a copy of any other Orders which will be amended by the proposed Order may be examined at the Council Offices of Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times. If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send your observations in writing to the Network Performance Team, 1st Floor, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX by Noon on Monday 20 June 2011.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway**BEACHBOROUGH, NEWINGTON, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of tree surgery works to remove overhanging tree canopy, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Beachborough, Newington, Folkestone on or after 5 June 2011 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

It was not possible to complete the works on the original date publicised.

The road will be closed between the entrance to 'Coombe Farm' and the entrance to 'Little Orchard'. There will be no access for through traffic between Folkestone and Etchinghill.

The alternative route is via A20 Ashford Road, M20 between junctions 12 & 13, (non-motorway traffic via B2604 Cheriton High Street, Cheriton Road and Cherry Garden Avenue) A20, A26 Spitfire Way, Canterbury Road, A2 Dover Road, Bonny Bush Hill, Black Robin Lane, Valley Road, Derrington Hill, Elham Valley Road and Canterbury Road.

SHIP STREET, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Ship Street, Folkestone, on or after 13 June 2011 for up to 12 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in 2 phases, initially between the junctions with Foord Road North and Boscombe Road, then from Boscombe Road to Bournemouth Road.

The alternative route is via Foord Road North, Radnor Road (plus Pavilion Road and Black Bull Road in reverse) and Bournemouth Road.

Please note that the Start Date differs from that initially publicised.

For further information, please contact
Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks**CHILDSDRIDGE LANE, SEAL - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Childsbridge Lane, Seal between Castle Drive and The Shielings.

The Order will become effective on 30th May 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 31st May 2011 and last 1 week. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Childsbridge Lane Kemsing, Pilgrims Way East Kemsing, Pilgrims Way East Offord, A225 Station Road Offord, A225 High Street Offord, A225 Sevenoaks Road Offord, A225 Offord Road Sevenoaks, A25 Seal Road Sevenoaks, A25 High Street Seal, School Lane Seal and Childsbridge Lane Seal.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate resurfacing works.

COCKERHURST ROAD, SHOREHAM - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Cockerhurst Road, Shoreham between Redmans Lane and Kettle Farm Road.

The Order will become effective on 13th June 2011. It will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. The restriction will be effective when required and when the appropriate signage is in place. The works are planned to last for 2 days.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Redmans Lane and Kettle Farm Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate replacement of BT cable.

NEVER WARREN ROAD, NEVER - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Never Warren Road, Never between Station Road and Hartfield Road.

The Order will become effective on 30th May 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 5th June 2011 and last 1 day. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Station Road, Uckfield Lane, Cowden Pound Road and Hartfield Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate road excavation for new electric supply.

MANOR LANE, ASH CUM RIDLEY - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Manor Lane, Ash Cum Ridley at its junction with Butchers Lane.

The Order will become effective on 30th May 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 31st May 2011 and last 4 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Chapel Wood Road, Ash Road, Hartley Road, Main Road and Fawkham Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate excavation for new electric supply.

TWITTON LANE, OTFORD - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Twitton Lane, Otford between Pilgrims Way West and Pilston Lane.



HIGHWAYS

The Order will become effective on 13th June 2011. It will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. The restriction will be effective when required and when the appropriate signage is in place. The works are planned to last for 1 week.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Pilgrims Way West and Filton Lane

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate replacement of decayed power lines and poles.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Swale

NORTON ROAD, NORTON, FAVERSHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow BT access to chambers for gully cleaning, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Norton Road, Norton, Faversham, on or after 1 June 2011 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with London Road and Lewson Street Road.

The alternative route is via A2 London Road and Provender Lane

STAPLE STREET, BOUGHTON UNDER BLEAN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Staple Street, Boughton Under Blean, on or after 30 May 2011 for up to 17 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in phases as shown below

PHASE 1 - between the junctions with Church Hill and Bull Lane, from 30 May 2011 for 4 weeks

PHASE 2 - between the junctions with Bull Lane and the entrance to Farming World, from 27 June 2011 for up to 11 weeks

The alternative route for these phases is via Staplestreet Road, The Street, Canterbury Road, A2 Boughton By-pass, Brenley Corner, A299 Thanet Way, Whitstable Road and Staplestreet Road.

PHASE 3 - from the London-bound carriageway of the A299 Thanet Way to the Staple Street Road overbridge, from 15 August 2011 for up to 2 weeks.

The alternative routes for this phase are

A299 Thanet Way to Brenley Corner, A2 Boughton By-pass Canterbury Road, Stockers Hill, Bull Lane and Staple Street.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

CANTERBURY ROAD, ST NICHOLAS AT WADE (50 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

For further information, please contact
Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



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BIRTHS

BAGGOTT

Monika and Steven of Broadstairs celebrate the birth of their son Christopher Baggott on 4th May, 2011. You are the miracle who we will love and treasure forever. xxx

BEAL

Lottie Rose born on 11th May, 2011, weighing 7lb 8oz. Daughter to Glen and Natalie Beal in Maidstone.

BROWN

Hadley Robert and Henry John born on 12th April, 2011. Twin sons to proud parents Andrew and Gemma and big brother Hayden.

GODBOLD

Elizabeth and Steven celebrate the birth of their daughter Nicole Florence Elizabeth Godbold. Born on 2nd May, 2011, weighing 8lb 3oz.

HO

Eric and Maggie Ho celebrate the birth of their daughter, Chloe Ching Yee Ho, on 9th April, 2011.

JOY/SMITH

Brooke Leanne Joy born on 30th April, 2011, to Vicki and Craig, weighing 8lb 1oz.

LEGGE

Madelaine and Richard celebrate the birth of their daughter Honor Isabella, born on 26th April, 2011, weighing 6lb 6oz.

LUNDY

Will and Amy are delighted to

announce the safe arrival of their beautiful son, Sebastian Andrew Jack Lundy.

Sebastian was born on 29th April at 12.28, weighing 8lb 3oz.

MCLOUGHLIN

Katie Nazer and Laurence McLoughlin would like to announce the birth of their daughter Frankie-Mae, born on the 12th May, 2011, at 12.48pm, weighing 6lb 11oz. Welcome to the McLoughlin family.

BROWN

Summer Louise born on 10th May, 2011, weighing 7lb 6oz. Daughter to Alastair and Deborah in Ramsgate. Mummy and Daddy's special little angel.

SMITH

Jonathan and Suzanne of Minster, near Ramsgate, celebrate the birth of their sons Ollie Owen and Joshua Alfie on 5th May, 2011. You are the little miracles who we will love and treasure forever.

SMITH

Melanie and Darren Smith celebrate the birth of their son Jacob David Smith on 15th May, 2011.

STAPLES

Mark and Beth are pleased to

announce the birth of our beautiful baby boy Toby John Staples, born on 13th May, 2011, weighing 7lb 10oz.

TOMS-

HOWARD

Michelle of Opringe proudly

announces the safe arrival of her beautiful daughter, Phoenix Alexandra Evelyn, on 15th April, 2011. Phoenix was born at William Harvey Hospital, Ashford, and weighed 7lb 10oz.

DEATHS

ANDERSON

Laura Margareta Anderson of Herne Bay passed away peacefully on 21st May, 2011. A much loved mum, nan and nanny who will be sadly missed.

BROWN

Henry Charles Brown (Harry) of Margate passed away peacefully at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Margate on 5th May, 2011.

FROST

Margaret Rose Frost, of Greatstone, New Romney, died 16th May, 2011, aged 77. Cherished memories of a loving mum, wife and nanny. Our thoughts are with you still, you will never be forgotten.

It is so hard to say goodbye, now and again we ask ourselves why? Now you are at peace and we have the memories of the good times we shared. xxx

TURNER

Gladys Ivy of St Marys Bay passed away peacefully on 13th May, 2011. Funeral will take place at 2pm on 31st May at St Marys in the Marsh.

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Wantsum?
Where real
ale means
real ale
SEE PAGE 53



**FAIR PLAY
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Steam along to the
traditional show that
gives a classic day out
SEE PAGE 59

Your Weekend



Call to castle rescuers

**Stories of those involved
in operation to bring Allied
troops back from Dunkirk
wanted for new exhibition**

TURN TO PAGE 49

PLUS: Electric cars were once mooted as the future of driving but the promised revolution is slow to hit even first gear- **talking point p50** Live in Great Expectations country - **Kent's finest property of the week p68** Mini Cooper D has a little touch of class - **driving p83**

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WE'RE you one of the people who manned the telephone exchanges, plotted the progress of ships and aircraft, typed urgent messages or carried out other duties in the tunnels deep below Dover Castle during the dramatic 10-day Dunkirk evacuation in 1940?

The operation preserved much of the British Army and also rescued thousands of Allied troops from the German advance in some of the darkest days of the Second World War.

To celebrate the opening of a new visitor experience at Dover Castle in the tunnels where the desperate operation was masterminded, English Heritage has begun a search for veterans who played a part at the castle in the rescue mission.

Veterans traced will be invited to the castle as guests of honour at the launch event on Thursday, June 9, the day before it opens to the public.

Operation Dynamo: Rescue From Dunkirk combines original newsreels and recordings, two years of painstaking research, testimonies from veterans of both the beaches and the tunnels, and special effects to deliver a vivid account of what Sir Winston Churchill called a "miracle of deliverance".

Visitors to Operation Dynamo will walk through the secret wartime tunnels deep beneath the castle and see, hear and feel – as never before – the danger and high stakes of the evacuation.

Sights and sounds will fill the tunnels. One moment, the visitor will experience the tense atmosphere of the operations room at Dover Castle, while the next, they will be immersed in the action on the Dunkirk beaches as a German plane flies overhead, pursued by British anti-aircraft fire.

The myths, the reality and the legacy of Operation Dynamo will be the focus of a new exhibition charting the history of the Dover Castle tunnels from Napoleonic times to the Cold War.

Simon Thurley, chief executive of English Heritage, said: "Helping people to understand the history of this nation through our historic buildings lies at the heart of English Heritage."

"There is no better place in England to learn about the Dunkirk evacuation than Dover Castle. With Operation Dynamo, you'll step into the tunnels and on to the beaches, boats and command centre during one of our darkest yet greatest hours."

Operation Dynamo: Rescue From Dunkirk will also pay tribute to a too-often-forgotten

Are you a castle veteran?

Search for anyone who was part of the operation based at Dover Castle to evacuate Allied troops from Dunkirk



hero and the man who successfully marshalled the evacuation, Admiral Sir Bertram Home Ramsay.

Historically, much attention has been paid to the private boats – the 'little ships' – that sailed to the rescue of the soldiers trapped on the French beaches.

Yet the pivotal role of the then-vice-admiral from deep underneath Dover Castle in saving the core of the British Army from capture by the Germans is not widely acknowledged. This is in part due to the quiet, modest nature of Ramsay, but also to his death in an air-crash in 1945.

A brilliant organiser and delegator, the vice-admiral was brought out of retirement before the outbreak of war and charged with protecting the Straits of Dover, the narrowest

part of the English Channel. Ramsay's initial impression of his command centre at Dover Castle was not positive. In a letter to his wife he wrote "We have no stationary, books, typists or machines, few chairs, very few tables, maddening communications, and nothing but long retired officers or volunteers...".

Operation Dynamo would test the man and his team to their limits.

The new visitor experience in the Secret Wartime Tunnels will highlight the scale of both the challenges faced by the vice-admiral and his achievements.

Visitors will be able to see the vice-admiral's cabin as well as tour some of the original rooms of the adjacent Army HQs, dressed as they were throughout the war, including the gun

operations room, the telephone exchange and the coast artillery operations room.

Dover Castle, in its role as guardian of the nearest landing point to mainland Europe, has seen unbroken active service for more than nine centuries.

Veterans based at Dover Castle during the Dunkirk evacuation interested in sharing their experiences with English Heritage can email memoriesofdunkirk@english-heritage.org.uk, phone 01304 252017 or write to Memories of Dunkirk, English Heritage, 195-205 High Street, Guildford GU1 3EH.

■ Operation Dynamo: Rescue From Dunkirk opens at Dover Castle on Wednesday, June 10, and is open daily from 10am-6pm.



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IT WAS heralded as the start of a revolution in green travel, but the electric car phenomenon appears to be moving at a crawling pace. In Kent the trend has barely made it away from the kerb, despite the vehicles being cheaper to run and kinder on the environment.

Experts' predictions of an environmental breakthrough in 2011 following the launch of an incentive scheme encouraging people to go green fell flat when figures revealed by transport minister Norman Baker last month showed the floodgates of electric vehicle-use were yet to open.

The £43 million – or 8,600 cars – government initiative looked to reward electric car buyers with a £5,000 grant per vehicle, but in the first quarter of 2011 just 534 people in the UK were registered with the programme.

The grant system was devised under Labour and survived the Coalition's cuts, although a review is expected to be carried out in 2012 looking at whether it should be continued.

The Government's Plugged in Places scheme – another attempt at driving the green revolution forward – also looked to encourage the country to choose electric over petrol where authorities and business bodies were offered match-funding to support the installation of a national vehicle recharging system.

London, Milton Keynes and the North East are already receiving funding for projects with Northern Ireland, Scotland, Greater Manchester, the Midlands, and the East of England next in line.

Few authorities in Kent, however, have bid for funding under the scheme.

According to the EV Network, the UK's directory of electric vehicle charging points, only Bromley and Tunbridge Wells have public plug-in stations.

Despite cross-party support and backing from motorists' groups, the initial cost of the vehicles, which are typically over a third more expensive than petrol or diesel-run cars, is being blamed for putting people off swapping petrol for electric.

Kent spokesman for the Association of British Drivers Ian Taylor said the vehicles were expensive, of limited range, different for drivers to handle on the road, and slower.

"This is my own personal opinion – the ABD does not have a policy on this – but I believe electric cars are something that city dwellers who don't have to travel as much as the rest of us might use," he said.

"There are still not that many in operation but before people start using electric cars there needs to be as many electric charge points as there are petrol stations put in place. Even so, it's not like when you just pull into a petrol station, fill up and drive off. You have to charge up."

"Improvements are being made but I think a wider use of electric cars may take longer than people think. What we may well see is more people using hybrid cars, which have more than one power source; petrol or diesel, and electricity."

He added: "As far as costs and environment go, electric cars may be cheaper and more environmentally-friendly to run, but you still have to use electricity to charge them up in the first place. Electricity isn't going to get any cheaper."

"There's always the possibility that one day in the future we may not be using petrol, diesel or electric – there are other fuel sources people are working on such as hydrogen fuel pellets."

Breakdown company the RAC Foundation said it was unlikely an electric car revolution was imminent.

Director of the organisation Stephen Glaister told reporters earlier this year that while Government subsidies made electric travel cheaper,



ELECTRIC MOTORING IS STUCK IN NEUTRAL

669

**Electric vehicles
are not a panacea.
Traffic congestion
due to over-use
of cars for short
journeys is a
major problem
now, and may
well get worse
this decade as
the population
continues to grow**

STEVE DAWE, GREEN PARTY

it still did not make them cheap to buy.

"Clearly we are still a long way from an affordable mass market for these vehicles," he added.

Currently there are a number of models of electric cars including the Nissan Leaf, billed as the first mass market electric car, as well as the Mitsubishi i-MiEV, and models – currently only available for lease – the Peugeot iOn and Citroen CZero.

In contrast to high petrol prices, costs to run electric cars can be as little as £1 for 100 miles.

To charge up drivers can choose the rapid charge options, which take 20-30 minutes with 50KW of power, or the standard 3KW plug-in points, which take eight hours, or 7KW, four hours. But unless Kent residents have an at-home charger or second battery, with few charge points in the county they will struggle to 'fill-up'.

Kent Green Party spokesman Steve Dawe said the party welcomed the move towards electric cars by motor companies, but stressed the need for more charging points.

"(Electric cars) will reduce traffic noise and cut the air pollution which is killing about 24,000 people in the UK each year," he said.

"Existing Government plans to increase charg-

ing points throughout the UK need to be enhanced, to increase the transfer to electric vehicles."

"But electric vehicles are not a panacea. Traffic congestion due to over-use of cars for short journeys is a major problem now, and may well get worse this decade as Kent's population continues to increase as people continue to move out of London."

"We still need our county council to escape from its outdated and unrealistic Growth Without Gridlock plans for transport within Kent."

"Without policies to decrease traffic levels year on year, traffic congestion will get worse regardless of whether we are using more electric vehicles or not."

Figures for last year showed there was not a single bid for Government funding from Kent's authorities for charge-up stations through the Plugged in Places scheme.

Speaking after the release of the data in March, 2010, a Kent County Council spokesman admitted that Kent Highways was keeping an eye on things before rushing into anything.

"We have to see if it's feasible first."

Medway Council also said it would look at more information before considering whether an application for funding was appropriate.

PLUGGED IN: There are a shortage of 'refuelling' points for the county's drivers of electric cars

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BOOKMARK: Pilot Charles Palliser with one of the keepsakes made from his WWII parachute silk

Pilot's parachute silk bookmarks The Few

By Ian Read

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

FIGHTER ace Charles 'Tich' Palliser was very attached to the parachute he flew with during the Battle of Britain.

And now his daughter Gill is using some of the silk to help raise money to build an interactive museum at the Battle of Britain memorial at Capel-le-Ferne near Folkestone.

Tich, now 92, lives with Gill near Melbourne, Australia, and the remnants of the chute have followed him around the world.

Gill has made the silk strips into 38 special bookmarks which she is auctioning on eBay.

Hartlepool-born Tich was a sergeant pilot flying Hurricanes with 249 Squadron based at North Weald, Essex, during September, 1940.

There was a constant fear of being trapped in a burning plane with no hope of getting out.

Tich, then 20, had to confront that fear just after when the battle was supposed to be over in December, 1940.

He said: "I was over Dover when we were attacked by ME 109 fighters. The aircraft was shot up at the back. When I tried to bale out I couldn't because a bullet had jammed the cockpit runner. I couldn't slide it open."

Tich was scared the petrol tank would catch fire.

He used to pray: "Lord if you want to kill me, kill me, but don't let me get on fire". Everyone was frightened of fire. I went to see friends in hospital, they should have been dead."

Above Kent Tich was franti-



AIR ACE: Charles Palliser in the cockpit of his Hurricane

cally looking for a field to land in. Most had obstacles designed to stop glider-borne German invasion troops landing.

Luckily he spotted a site.

He said: "I was approaching at 85mph. I had my fingers and legs crossed. We came to earth with a crash and I busted my face as we stopped. I had to keep the aircraft steady for the last 10ft, then we ploughed in."

There was the ever-present fear the Hurricane would blow up.

Tich said: "Luckily for me two Army officers saw me aiming to make a landing. They could tell where I was going to land and raced into the field.

"They got a crowbar and used it to wrench open the cockpit hood. I'd hit my head and my legs were tangled up

"Luckily I'd used up all my ammunition. Then they took me to a roadside café for a cuppa."

It wasn't the first time he'd landed in a field. Recently posted to 249 he was scrambled to

intercept a massive raid on London on September 15.

He was on his first mission and in his hurry to scramble went without a map – there were no navigation systems then.

During the sortie the young Geordie ran out of petrol and force landed.

He got a farmer to call the nearest RAF station for some petrol and took off again. As he climbed he ran into a Dornier 215 bomber which he promptly shot down. He saw four of the crew taking to their parachutes.

A Spitfire had fired shots at it so he was awarded a half kill.

He wasn't too popular when the officers found out he didn't have a map but their attitude changed when he told them about the Dornier.

Tich said: "We stopped the bloody Germans and we were proud to do it. They were trying to take our country away from us."

He stayed with 249 when it went to Malta where the air-fighting was equally tough. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for shooting down 13 Luftwaffe aircraft.

For a brief period he commanded the squadron before becoming an instructor in South Africa.

Museum trustees are trying to raise £600,000 to build a high tech exhibition which will give visitors an idea of what flying a Spitfire or Hurricane was like.

Tich said: "I'm proud the silk is being put to good use because the memorial is to everyone who fought in the battle and will give a flavour of what it was like."

The Viking Coastal Trail
www.vikingcoastaltrail.co.uk



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Career change is a real barrel of joy for brewer

TWO years ago, when James Sandy faced redundancy, he knew this might be his only chance to follow his passion for brewing beer. He said: "I had been a home brewer for many years, but I never aspired to owning my own brewery. Then I thought 'Do I just try and carry on doing the same job, or do I try something totally different?'. I realised that if I do not do it now I never will, so that gave me the desire and the drive to do something new."

James discussed the idea of a micro-brewery with some friends who were keen to help him out. They chose the name Wantsum after the river which borders the Isle of Thanet.

He said: "I had my redundancy money, which we used as a start-up fund. I wanted to create something and offer employment. Now I employ a driver and a sales person."

James's approach to his beer is a mixture of the traditional and the radical.

"I had become disillusioned with supposed real ale that you drink in pubs produced by the major brewers. To my palette, it was very bland."

"I wanted to start brewing real ale, firstly as it had been traditionally done in Kent, but secondly utilising some of the exciting new hop

Ed Hill meets the man who Wantsum taste buds to be tickled with his wide range of delicious real ales

RAISE YOUR GLASS:

James Sandy turned his redundancy money into liquid gold when he set up Wantsum Brewery

varieties being grown around the world.

"I wanted to challenge people's idea of beer. It is a very complex refined product like wine and if you utilise some of the new hops from abroad you can create really subtle flavours."

James experimented with these exotic ingredients but always in a way that would still produce traditional Kentish-style ales.

He said: "We have now refined what we have been doing and have got to a situation where we have uniquely-flavoured beers that suit a broad group of consumers."

"You have to create a balance of malt and hops – if you get either wrong, it will taste odd. A lot of micro-breweries in the area will say they only use Kent hops. There is nothing wrong with that, but if you only ever use those hops you will only ever produce a certain type of beer. I want to offer a range."

The brewing process takes some seven days. Then the beers are casked and cellarled for about two weeks. The brewery also sells bottled

beers and five-litre micropins (small barrels that consumers can take home with them).

The first two years have gone well and the brewery is looking at increasing production to meet demand, possibly from larger premises.

"Turbulent Priest and 1381 are our two biggest sellers," said James.

"Turbulent Priest is a uniquely-flavoured beer with interesting antipodean hops but a really traditional Kent-style beer. 1381 is a very light summery beer that uses Kent and American hops. It is a very light and floral ale that people enjoy drinking for a session."

And what of the brewery's name?

"It is great to sell anything – Wantsum this or that?" said James. "I also jog by the Reculver towers where the river runs. I always thought they would be fantastic to have on the pump-handles at the bar, so we have incorporated them into our logo. It also links into quality and local history as well."

■ See www.wantsumbrewery.co.uk

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- All transfers abroad



Lake Bled, Slovenia, Croatia & Venice

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travel on the swift Eurostar, London to Paris, then overnight train to Venice in a private cabin.

PRICE INCLUDES:

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- 7 nights half board at a 4-star hotel on the Slovenian coast
- Excursions
- All transfers abroad



Grease & Saturday Night Fever Xmas Party

Warner Bembridge Coast Hotel, Isle of Wight - Over 40s only
Self drive, 3 nights, drinks inclusive
Quote MX11-KOS
£279pp Sale £259pp
£10pp deposit

Friday, Nov 25 to 28, 2011
Join us for a Christmas party with a super 1970s theme. Our party includes a screening of the movie Grease, a Bee Gees Tribute act and Free Drinks every day.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- FREE drinks from 3.30pm to 11pm Friday, 12noon to 11pm Sat & Sun
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- Entertainment includes movie screening of Grease and Bee Gees Tribute act
- En-suite bedroom - upgrades available
- Indoor pool & sauna
- Return Car Ferry



Carry on New Year Party

Warner Bembridge Coast Hotel, Isle of Wight - Over 40s only
Self drive, 3 nights, drinks inclusive
Quote BC1-KOS
£239pp
£10pp deposit

Friday, Jan 13 to 16, 2012
Join us for a party that extends the New Year festivities. Our weekend break includes a gala New Year's Eve party and Free Drinks every day.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Free drinks from 3.30pm to 11pm on Friday; 12noon to 11pm Sat & Sun - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- Full entertainment programme
- En-suite bedroom
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- Indoor pool & sauna
- Return car ferry



Dog and Duck Plucks Gutter

Why here...

By the River Stour, surrounded by countryside and with a large garden. Live music every Sunday from midday to 3pm. Large function room holds up to 70 people and a smaller room up to 40.

On the menu...

A good selection of traditional pub food, with specials every day from jacket potatoes to fillet steak. Meat and vegetables sourced locally. Food midday to 9pm Monday to Friday and Sunday, later Saturday.

How to book...

Plucks Gutter, Stourmouth, near Canterbury CT3 1JB
phone: 01843 821264
Smaller groups need not book

When only the countryside is the place to be

WHERE better to unwind than a top-class country restaurant or pub? The countryside of Kent is unmatched in its variety, from the rolling North Downs to The Weald and the majesty of the White Cliffs.

Whether your passion is nature, rambling, the seaside or just plain relaxing, there is something for everyone in the county. And, of course, you will always want to eat in such glorious surroundings!

Here is a selection of idyllic venues, many including their original rustic features and with gardens that are just made for hot summer days and warm, balmy evenings.

All offer the best-quality local produce, so at a time when it is ever-more important to choose and enjoy

home produce, both to benefit our economy and cut down on air miles, they are the perfect choice.

Locally-caught fish, oysters, Romney Marsh lamb, plums, apples and strawberries from the fields and orchards of Kent are all on offer, as well as local wines and beers.

Live music, quiz nights and themed evenings take place at many of the inns we have featured, so check their websites or phone to see what events are being planned.

All the venues featured here serve top-quality food crafted by passionate chefs, so you can pamper yourself with a sophisticated meal right in the heart of the countryside.

Kent's reputation for excellent cuisine has soared in recent years, and a read of these pages shows just why.

So go on – treat yourself to some fine dining this summer.



Wallett's Court St Margaret's

Why here...

Celebrating 30 years of classic British country living with a classic menu in a Michelin-rated restaurant at a beautiful country-house hotel every evening and on Sunday lunchtimes.

On the menu...

Starters include Kentish asparagus with Hollandais or Deal crab mayonnaise, while main-course favourites include Romney Marsh lamb with cumin followed by classic desserts.

How to book...

Westcliffe, St Margaret's-at-Cliffe, Dover CT15 6EW
phone: 01304 852424
www.wallettscourthotelspa.com



See Ho Shorne

Why here...

The See Ho bar and restaurant is in a beautiful rural location and popular with walkers. It is close to picturesque Shorne Country Park and ideal for freshly-prepared lunches, dinners and private parties.

The venue can seat up to 50 people and is easy to find, just off the A2.

Live music, quiz nights and plenty of themed evenings are held at this popular local

inn, which makes everyone welcome.

On the menu...

Fresh fish is prepared daily and all ingredients are sourced locally. Homemade pies, curries and Italian dishes are also extremely popular. A new chef is bringing the feel of the Mediterranean to the restaurant, which offers top-quality food at affordable prices.

How to book...

Pear Tree Lane, Shorne, Gravesend
phone: 01474 822386
Book or just turn up

The Unicorn Bekesbourne

Why here...

Small country pub minutes from the centre of Canterbury and 200 yards from Bekesbourne train station. Serves traditional pub food made from fresh, locally-sourced ingredients.

On the menu...

Seasonal menu, plus daily specials including homemade pies, fish with homemade chips, salad selection and steak night. Sandwiches with homemade bread are also available.

How to book...

Bekesbourne Hill, Bekesbourne, Canterbury CT4 5ED
email www.pubunicorn.com



The Dove Inn Dargate

Why here...

A quiet rural village location in the heart of the Garden of England. Stunning beer garden and rustic interior with easy access from Whitstable, Canterbury and Faversham. Sited in one of the most beautiful walking areas of the countryside and offering a warm and welcoming gastro pub environment. Award-winning food is served by friendly staff. Featured in all the major food guides and the

perfect spot for Sunday lunch or a snack and a pint.

On the menu...

Bar menu offers grilled goat's cheese crostini and potted crab or Welsh rarebit to locally-sourced main dishes such as Seasalter marsh lamb, braised rabbit with parmesan polenta and brill. A la carte menu available Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday lunch is popular

How to book...

Plum Pudding Lane, Dargate, Faversham ME13 9HB
phone: 01227 751360
www.thedoveatdargate.co.uk



Blue Pigeons Worth

Why here...

Beautiful and convenient location and proud winners of Channel 4's Three In A Bed hit TV show. Serving fine food with four themed rooms and chalets. Live music, murder mystery, the list goes on...

On the menu...

À la carte or bar menu – all food is cooked from scratch using the very best-quality local produce. Large range of fish dishes and vegetarian options. Booking is essential for diners.

How to book...

The Street, Worth, near Sandwich CT14 0DE
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The Orchards
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THIS peaceful circular walk traces the ancient cliff line above Romney Marsh, passing through the wild and fascinating Hamstreet Woods National Nature Reserve.

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Leaving the station behind, you will quickly be transported into the cool tranquillity of Hamstreet Woods.

Natural England uses traditional woodland management methods such as coppicing to encourage wildlife to prosper. The dominant trees are pedunculate and sessile oaks, downy and silver birches and hornbeam.

The woodland glades are carpeted with bluebells and wood anemones in spring. Wild honeysuckle is also well established.

Many breeding birds can be seen on the reserve, most characteristic of woodlands. These include treecreeper, spotted flycatcher, nightingale, hawfinch and sparrowhawk.

The woods also support a large number of rare invertebrates, most notably species living on dead wood. The eagle-eyed among you may also notice this is also a great place to seek out moths and butterflies.

The site is also of archaeological interest and contains many well-preserved earthworks including a medieval ditch and bank system and the remains of a staggered medieval dam.

As the welcoming sight of Hamstreet village rolls towards you, why not consider stopping for a short while for a well-earned rest? The Duke's Head is an extremely popular village inn and there are shops to buy refreshments.

The parish has an interesting history and is affectionately known as the 'Gateway to the Marsh', being located six miles south of Ashford where the ridge hills meet the expanses of Romney Marsh.

Stories of smugglers echo through the generations of residents, although the area gained much less dark national recognition in more recent years.

Hamstreet was one of the first areas of England to be mapped by Ordnance Survey and in 1991, in recognition of this, the village appeared on a special-edition set of postage stamps marking the bi-centenary of Ordnance Survey.

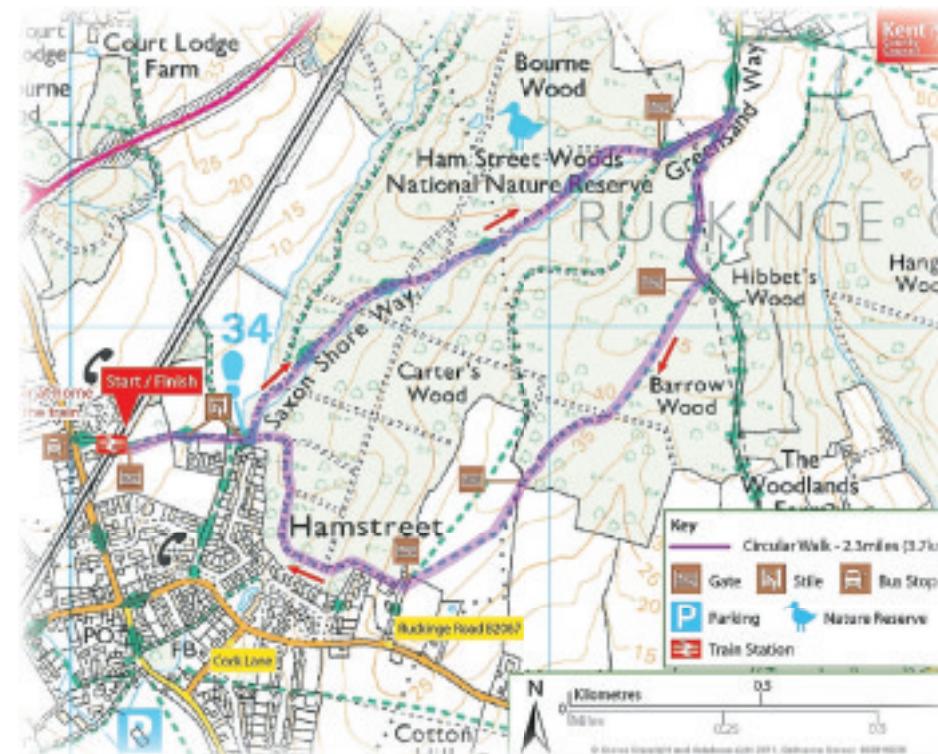
- **Location:** Hamstreet, TN26 2DU
- **Distance:** 2.3 miles (3.7km), allow 1 hour 15 minutes
- **OS Explorer Map:** 125
- **Terrain:** well-defined tracks
- **Stiles:** Two
- **Gates:** Five
- **Step count:** Approximately 4,600
- **Parking:** There is parking at the start of the route or on the roads
- **Refreshments and facilities:** The Duke's Head public house in the village and local shops



PEACE AND TRANQUILLITY: Hamstreet offers the perfect stop-off place for those weary walkers



Beginning and ending at Hamstreet train station, this historic walk boasts something for everyone – a fascinating and beautiful journey through woodland bristling with wildlife – some of it rare – along with archaeological interest dating back to medieval times.



Explore Kent

EXPLORE Kent is your one-stop shop for Kent's best walks, bike rides, horse rides and parks. With inspirational videos, a free iPhone map application, ideas for days out and much more, you can explore and enjoy Kent's countryside and coast. Visit the website www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent Or telephone: 08458 247600 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)



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Events at Dickens World



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(All prices include Dickens World entry)



Saturday 4th June

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£17 inc. a sausage and mash supper 7.30pm
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Saturday 11th June

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Greater safari experience Wildlife park

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0844 842 4647

www.aspinalfoundation.org

Open 10am to 6pm

PORT Lympne Wild Animal Park has just launched its million-pound redevelopment. The African Experience Safari is now integral to the park and transports visitors between four key on-foot zones. Two new walkways through the European bison field and a rhino paddock mean that guests can explore previously out-of-bounds territory and enjoy better views of the animals and stunning scenery. The development has also seen the building of a pioneering enclosure for the park's Pallas's cats. The new enclosure covers more than 230 square metres, with a large indoor viewing area where the public will be separated from the cats by only a small moat, allowing unimpeded views.



Thrilling new play feature Drop-slide

Wildwood Trust, Blean

01227 712 111

www.wildwoodtrust.org

Open every day from 10am

THE new Wildwood adventure play area is complete and open for business. Following the recent building project to improve facilities, the play park has many new features, but the centrepiece

has to be the Tree Top Drop Slide. Kent's tallest drop-slide is a modern version of a Victorian design that starts with an amazing 26ft vertical drop before levelling out for an exhilaratingly fast and slippery ride. Children and adults alike can face their fears and experience the thrill of free-fall again and again in safety as the specially-designed linoleum slide glides the rider to a gentle stop. The new wild fort with tree-top towers and the slippery twisting slide, as well as traditional swings and climbing frames, have been built by

Wildwood's in-house ranger team using their extensive building and carpentry skills. The drop-slide is the work of Alastair Guy, who has created exciting play equipment across the UK, including at Cornwall's Eden Project. Wildwood chief executive Peter Smith said: "We are delighted with the new play park. "At Wildwood we want to educate children of all ages about our beautiful British wildlife, and this new attraction will ensure we remain popular with children as they grow." Wildwood is dedicated to protecting British wildlife.



Open gardens Blooms go on display

Ospringe, near Faversham

Sunday, June 19

Entry programmes from the Fleur de Lys visitor centre

VISIT the hidden and not-so-hidden gardens of Ospringe. A range of village gardens, including the Ospringe allotments, will be open between 2pm and 6pm for the garden safari. There are new gardens, established gardens, works in progress and gardens experimenting with growing vegetables in raised beds. Two tea rooms are offering homemade afternoon teas, and there will also be a plant stall and an art display. The village pub, The Ship, will be taking part and offering lunches for those who want to make an early start. In addition, Ospringe church will be holding a flower festival. Admission is by programme (£3), available from the Maison Dieu Museum (opening hours 2-5pm, Saturday, Sunday and bank holidays) and The Ship, both in Ospringe, or from any of the open gardens. Accompanied children have free entry. Maps showing the gardens taking part will be available from the Fleur de Lys visitor centre in Faversham. All the profits go towards the community museum.



Traditional fair Chair-o-planes and waltzers

Dreamland, Margate

Saturday, May 28, to Sunday,

June 5

Open 11am to 7pm daily

VINTAGE fairground operation Carters Steam Fair is heading to the Dreamland site in Margate to offer a classical-style day out for all the family. The company, which prides itself on its stunning galloper merry-go-rounds, beautiful chair-o-planes and old-style arcades, was started by

Folk music Oysterband Acoustic

Royal Native Oyster Stores, Whitstable

Sunday, July 24, 3.30pm and 7.30pm

MORE than 30 years after it was formed in a folk club at The Duke of Cumberland in Whitstable, Oysterband Acoustic will return to their geographic roots when they perform at the town's famous oyster festival.

Oysterband have toured in more than 35 countries since 1978, giving sell-out shows in cities as far apart as Los Angeles and Tokyo, but these two gigs will comprise their first appearance in the home of their formation for more than 20 years and tickets will be in hot demand.

Also performing will be Sam Carter – BBC Folk Awards Newcomer Of The Year 2010. Tickets cost £15 and are available online at www.whitstablefolk.co.uk or by phoning 07895 683567.

the late John Carter, who collected the machines. The business is still run by the Carter family, based in Berkshire, but the group travels in vintage moving vans around the country bringing a taste of historic Britain.

The company's Anna Carter said: "This is our second visit to Kent. It is a long way down there in our old vans, but it is well worth it."

Carters Steam Fair comes to Margate for the half-term holiday week and features other classic gold-leaf-painted rides like the dive-bomber, dodgems, steam yachts and old-style waltzers called skids. This is a great chance to experience a traditional funfair.



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Cycle ride Pedal will help breeds centre

**Ashford to Rye
and back again**
Sunday, June 12
www.rarebreeds.org.uk

THE Great Kent Bike Ride in aid of the Rare Breeds Centre in Woodchurch is being sponsored this year by Kent brewery Shepherd Neame. Some 1,000 cyclists are expected to take part in the event, which starts and finishes in Ashford.

There are two routes, one of 35 miles and the other of 60 miles. There is also a five-mile off-road route.

Because of the brewery's sponsorship, this year riders will be able to stop off at pubs on the journey.

The ride raises money for the Canterbury Oast Trust, which helps people with learning difficulties and runs the Rare Breeds Centre. For further information on the ride, visit www.rarebreeds.org.uk.



Art exhibition Metaphysical Margate

**Substation Project Space,
Bilton Square, Margate**
Open Wednesdays to Sundays
during June from 11am-5pm

PHOTOGRAPHER Werner Zellien is renowned for capturing on film the abandoned Villa Wannsee house, where on January 20, 1942, the decision to kill the Jews of Europe was made. Zellien will now turn his lens on Margate to produce a series of photographs entitled Metaphysical Margate. The exhibition will comprise 25 pictures of the town taken

during the winter of 2004-05. The images capture the bleak beauty of a town in transition. The show is the result of a collaboration between Zellien and Kent University's lecturer in political thought, Iain MacKenzie; they have teamed up to produce this remarkable exhibition.

MacKenzie and Zellien met while the latter was visiting Margate six years ago to take the establishing shots for his *Snohetta* commission. The pair also worked together on the Villa Wannsee project in 2008, with MacKenzie providing the catalogue essay. Now, several years later, they are collaborating on Metaphysical Margate with a view to continuing their conversation about the overlapping concerns of photography and philosophy.

Musical talent Ben Leftwich notes festival

Lounge On The Farm
Merton Farm,
near Canterbury
Friday, July 8

has appeared on Radio One and will be releasing his new album *Last Smoke Before The Snowstorm* in July.

At just 21, his songwriting is complex, with inspiration from the likes of The Rolling Stones and Bob Dylan.

Work on Leftwich's debut album started when he was just a teenager and taught himself to play the guitar. Like the previous releases, the album is produced by Ian Grimble (Mumford & Sons, Manic Street Preachers). It is a 10-track recording that showcases Leftwich's voice, combined with simple guitar

lines, delicate melodies and poetic lyrics.

His album follows the success of 2010's *A Million Miles Out EP*. The success of that track led Jo Whiley to invite Leftwich to play at her Little Noise Session gig at the Union Chapel as well as making the lead track *Atlas Hands* one of her tracks of 2010. He was also invited to perform on Dermot O'Leary's *Live Sessions*.

Leftwich recently completed his first UK headline tour in early 2011, with 10 sold-out dates. He has also supported Noah & The Whale.

ONE of the country's hottest new singer-songwriters will be playing at the Lounge On The Farm festival near Canterbury this summer. Benjamin Francis Leftwich



A novel idea Dickens Festival

High Street, Rochester
Friday to Sunday, June 3-5
www.medway.gov.uk
01634 843 666

MEDWAY is proud of its association with Charles Dickens, and the Dickens Festival has celebrated these lasting connections every year since 1978.

The Rochester area was the inspiration for many of Dickens's greatest works. Restoration House in Rochester high street was Satis House, home of Miss Havisham in *Great Expectations*.

During the festival weekend you will experience old favourites, from parades full of colour and Dickens's best-known characters to competitions, street entertainment, displays and readings. There are also new experiences for 2011, including the features *Catch Dickens If You Can*, *Dickipedia - The Beginner's Guide To Dickens*, *Cabinet Of Curiosities* and a 30-minute journey into the world of Dickens.

The Victorian festival's combination of music, dance, drama and street theatre has earned it a place in the Kent tourism calendar as one of the key events of the summer.

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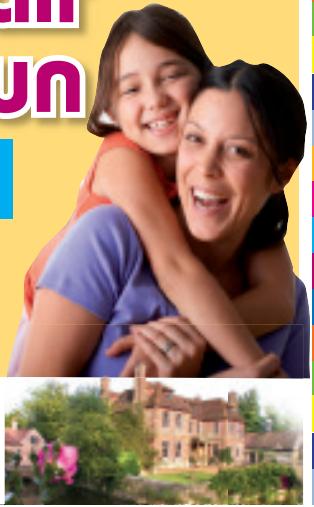
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Theatre Sense And Sensibility

Hever Castle, Edenbridge
 Thu and Fri, June 2-3, 8pm
 01732 866114
theatre@heverfestival.co.uk

THE classic Jane Austen novel Sense And Sensibility is being brought to Hever Castle's scenic gardens as part of Chapterhouse Theatre Company's outdoor evening plays in Kent. The book has been adapted for the stage by Laura Turner for an evening of regency wonderment. Elinor and Marianne Dashwood are making their first forays into the decadent world of 18th-century high society. The sisters fall in love, make mistakes and experience heartbreak for the first time in their quest to find a balance between sense and sensibility. The stage is covered in case of bad weather and tiered seating is provided. Tickets for the production cost £16.50.



Selecter and Specials star Skabour

Folkestone
 Friday to Sunday, September 2-4
www.folkestoneskabourfestival.co.uk

THE line-up for Folkestone's Skabour Festival in September has just been announced. The headline ticketed events will be at the Leas Cliff Hall on the Friday, notably 2 Tone legends The Selecter featuring Pauline Black and famous for hits such as Three Minute Hero and On My Radio. Also back by popular demand from last year's sell-out event are The Beat. The third act of the evening will be Skabilly Rebels with Roddy Radiation, a member of The Specials. The Saturday night ticketed event at Quarterhouse will feature the current kings of ska and reggae, The Dualers who have had recent sell out concerts at the O2 Indigo. Co-organiser Trevor Moss said: "Following the success of Folkestone Skabour last year we have been overwhelmed by the demand for the event to be repeated this year and we intend to make it even bigger and better. "We also intend to bring back the free daytime events at the harbour and have many great acts waiting in the wings."

Fusion with an African heart Congo Beat

Quarterhouse, Folkestone
 Sunday, June 5
 01303 858500

THOSE into a mix of sizzling African, Cuban and Caribbean music can catch Robert Maseko and the Congo Beat at Quarterhouse in Folkestone. The concert is

part of the Equator World Music series. Robert Maseko and the Congo Beat fuse elegant vocals, guitar and rumba-propelled basslines, exploring the deep roots of Afrobeat and the connections between African, Cuban and Caribbean music. The group are part of the new wave of African artists reinventing hip-swinging Congolese and rumba soukous music, adding their own touches of reggae, flamenco, tango, merengue and zouk. The group's music is highly spiritual, with lyrics written in Lingala, Swahili, French and

English. Robert Maseko was born in Congo and started his musical career by exploring sound variations of tin cans; sardine tins as microphones and powdered-milk tins as conga-style drums. His talents were quickly recognised and his interest grew in the cross-pollination of sounds heard in African music. He is a charismatic frontman, known for his heartfelt style and beautiful vocals in a performance that will get your heart racing. Tickets: adults £8, concessions £6, students £3, children free.



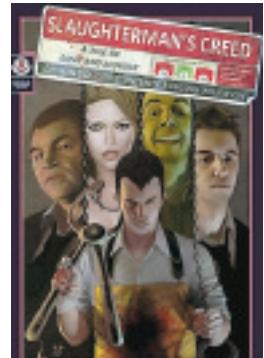
Book-signing at city store Graphic-novel

Canterbury
 Saturday, June 4
 01227 453226
www.whatevercomics.com

FOLLOWING the success of last year's Fall Of The Wolfmen graphic-novel signing, Whatever Comics in Canterbury will be hosting another event.

Writer Cy Dethan and artist Nic Wilkinson will be in the shop to sign copies of Slaughterman's Creed, A Tale Of Meat And Murder. Dethan is a freelance writer and editor whose first graphic-novel

Cancertown, published in



2007, was a huge hit. Wilkinson is an artist who letters graphic-novels, including all of Dethan's work. To help signing along, characters from the novel will be welcoming visitors to the shop. For details, email batmanuel@live.com.



Stand-up Omid Djalili is back in town

Stag Theatre, Sevenoaks
 Thursday, June 2, 8pm
www.stagsevenoaks.co.uk
 Phone 01732 450 175

VOTED as one of the best comedy venues in the UK by readers of The Guardian newspaper, the Stag Theatre in Sevenoaks welcomes another gaggle of top-class UK comedians. Having already seen the likes of Stephen Merchant, Russell Howard, Reginald D Hunter and Andy Parsons grace the Stag stage, Sevenoaks laughter-lovers can add the considerable names of Omid Djalili, Simon Donald, Lucy Porter and Jeff Innocent to their 'viewed' list. Resident host Matt Brown will

introduce Djalili for his second appearance at the Stag. The Iranian comic is well known after having his own show commissioned by the BBC. The quickfire tongue-twister will be practising his latest material before heading off on a UK-wide tour.

Djalili shot to fame with appearances in Hollywood blockbuster film The Mummy and has appeared in a number of TV adverts, but it was his notable appearances on panel show Have I Got News For You that got him recognised within the national comedy circuit. Porter is a regular guest on satirical panel show Mock The Week, proving her rapid-thinking stand-up skills rank alongside the best the country has to offer. Donald is also well known through numerous television appearances as a talking head. He is also one of the creators of Viz magazine. Tickets for the monthly show cost £14.

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ELIZABETH sexy, loving, kind, caring, seeks older gent, 78 plus for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366603

TALL blue eyed 30's female, brown hair, lots of interests, seeks male for good times. Any age/looks/status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366705

ATTRACTIVE and any man's dream seeks, outgoing, professional male for intimate evenings in and fun nights out. Can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366703

CUTE very curly young girl, 18, WLTM romantic guy for lots of fun and loving. Looks/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366699

LADY 56, semi disabled, size 18, seeking a caring, loving, honest gent, 50 plus. Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365453

SUSIE 5ft 7ins blonde, seeks educated attractive male for loving relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385476

34YR old blonde new to the area, seeking younger guy for fun times maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365077

FUN loving curly red head 32yrs, loves good food/wine, WLTM male who appreciates a real woman and knows what he likes. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365079

30YR old Brunette fit, feminine, attractive, free, single and looking for love with similar fun loving guy. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365075

36YR old bored housewife looking for mutual companionship with discreet understanding man stuck in a similar rut. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364331

MALE Guardian reader? Arty, vivacious female, 61, happy in own skin, seeks N/S sociable, warm, loving man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360655

GLASS half full N/S mid 50's woman, seeks other half. Are you a professional man, 50-60 who likes the finer things in life? Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363969

LORRAINE seeks trustworthy white male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363793

DONNA 35, single mum of 3, seeks mate with GSOH, 35-40. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385064

5FT 2ins female, brown hair, blue eyes, homely, down to earth, seeks female for LTR. Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366525

49YR old lady, honest, sincere, easygoing, likes a laugh, looking for love. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350595

MAIDSTONE lady, pretty, petite, late 50's, honest, caring, N/S, loves life and most things, seeks nice guy for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366501

HAZEL blonde, 62, pretty, cuddly, N/S, non drinker, seeks genuine, attractive male, 55-65 for fun and friendship. Ramsgate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366725

GREEN eyed blonde in need of love and attention seeks youthful, trendy experienced guy to enjoy good times. Any age/status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366723

48YR old female, 5ft 3ins, medium build, likes animals, seeks male, 48-50, preferably a smoker for LTR. Maidstone. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365955

INDEPENDENT 52yr old slim, N/S female, likes animals, walks, swimming, meals/days out, seeks N/S similar aged male for friend ship/companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366099

MISS Gorgeous, 5ft 8ins, black beauty, sexy, curvy, likes a laugh, happy go lucky, seeks male for no strings fun times. Hackney. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365861

ACADEMIC man sought by female, recent graduate, int art, history, psychology. Likes usual activities as well as London art galleries and walks. Bromley. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365501

ATTRACTIVE confident, lady, 37, independent, HIV Positive, seeks male for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364315

48YR old female, average build, good looking, likes most things, seeks male for friend ship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363321

FUN outgoing lady, seeks spontaneous male, 37-60, adventurous, professional, attractive. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363331

JANE 27, caring, bubbly, likes nights out, cinema, bowling, DVDs, seeks male for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363203

SINGLE 50 plus female, seeks male who likes talks, walks, dining and dancing. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364975

LORNA 66, nurse, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364237

FEMALE 64, brown/grey hair, medium build, honest, caring, loving, seeks similar in male, 30-60 for friendship/relationship. Medway. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364253

LOOKING for my soul mate, 57, lonely, caring, affectionate, likes a drink in good company, GSOH, likes cooking, meals out, looking for some fun company, possible romance. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364415

MARY 60, good for age, GSOH, likes cooking, dancing, writing, astrology, cats, seeks male with GSOH and similar age. Medway. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364357

BARBARA 46, seeks nice, stocky male up to 50 for friendship, maybe more. Heathrow. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361701

CLASSY lady, slim, pretty, young looking graduate, mixed race, 38, London, seeking a sugar daddy to spoil and pamper me. Discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367031

VERY cute, slim, black professional female, 36, looking for love! If you are honest, passionate, caring and spontaneous, ring me. Any race. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366277

FEMALE seeks kind, caring white male, 42-50, tidy and clean for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363197

ELIZABETH caring, honest, reliable, likes most things, seeks older gent, late 70's for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359589

SLIM attractive, elegant female, likes travel, restaurants, cinema, seeks caring, male, 45-55 for friendship, possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361571

ATTRACTIVE young hearted female, fed up with being alone, so if you feel the same give me a call, lets get together. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366721

FEMALE 25, professional, likes nights out, socialising, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360961

UNIQUE attractive black female, 37, slim, enjoys music, reading, theatre nature, WLTM genuine gent, 37-49 to share laughter and life, caring, N/S who lives near London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333815

ANNE 61, 5ft 3ins, medium build, blue eyes, blonde hair, seeks honest male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361243

LADY slim, brunette, N/S, likes music, National Trust, theatre, days out, seeks sincere honest gent, 48-60 for friendship, maybe more. Kent/Sussex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360633

SALLY petite, confident lady, happy go lucky, likes dancing, walks, TV, seeks male/soul mate for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362669

BLONDE tanned female, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, night in, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364265

WARM well educated 60's female, seeks similar gent to enjoy the simple things of life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360477

BETH young minded widow, 65, 5ft 5ins, happy, size 14, N/S, many interests, seeks sincere, honest gent for friendship who might admit to some aching bones. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356989

PETITE female, slim, attractive, blonde hair, green eyes, GSOH, romantic, likes sports, nights out, seeks male, honest, gentle, N/S male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334291

ATTRACTIVE lady, seeks kind, solvent male for romance and possibly love. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360159

ISABELLE lovely lady, genuine, honest, loving, caring, 68, N/S, non drinker, slightly disabled, WLTM male for love, companion, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356981

GORGEOUS lonely lass, 45, looking for some romantic liaisons with younger male, looks important, no chancers. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364415

42YR old female, likes music, dancing, writing, astrology, cats, seeks male with GSOH and similar age. Medway. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356983

PROFESSIONAL male, 42, OHAC, independent, likes good things in life, sees warm, sincere female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356991

TINKERBELLE seeks Peter Pan, I'm 36, 5ft 3ins, size 8-10 and am looking for a tall strong man who can connect and make me laugh. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358721

ATTRACTIVE warm, blonde female, European, 49, seeks honest, generous male, 50 plus who will take care of me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364277

FEMALE seeks kind, caring white male, 42-50, tidy and clean for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362207

ELIZABETH caring, confident, seeks older gent, late 70's for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358729

PATRICIA outgoing, confident, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358729

ATTRACTIVE black lady, 5ft 6ins, black hair, slim, kissable lips, likes walks, horse riding, go karts, seeks professional white male, 35-45, athletic, 5ft 11ins. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358891

SALLY independent, intelligent, confident, caring female, seeking a similar soul mate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358891

BLACK female, likes meals out, theatre, seeks solvent white male, 30-47 for genuine relationship. Ashford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358891

LADY 44, GSOH, short, curly, dark hair, seeks good guy for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358891

CUDDLY curly size 14 plus female looking for gent, 59-65 for daytime adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358891

BEDFORDSHIRE female, 39, HW positive, likes cinema, music, travel, rights in, wine bars, seeks decent, white, professional male, under 45. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358891

ATTRACTION black lady, 5ft 6ins, black hair, slim, kissable lips, likes walks, horse riding, go karts, seeks professional white male, 35-45, athletic, 5ft 11ins. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358891

LADY 44, GSOH, short, curly, dark hair, seeks good guy for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358891

CARING young 62 petite blonde, seeks someone to share doing things with, theatre, dancing and perhaps nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358891

HONEST caring, genuine female, 44, GSOH, likes meals out, nights in, sees similar male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381844

CLARE 5ft 10ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, likes most things, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 318103

ATTRACTIVE caring, interesting black lady, seeks educated, genuine white male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358937

CUDDLY curly size 14 plus female looking for gent, 59-65 for daytime adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358937

SEALED with a kiss, 37yr old single mum, blonde hair, blue eyes, curly, likes sunshine, travel, looking for Knight in shining armour, to make me laugh and spoil me. Folkestone. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355543

TERRY 38, 5ft 7ins, 1st, seeks Asian/bi/ack female for fun and friendship, maybe more. Maidstone. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353591

CAROLE petite, slim, long blonde hair, green eyes, attractive, likes sports, nights out, pub, meals out, cinema, theatre, seeks genuine, honest male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385772

DEL 55, 5ft 5ins, seeks attractive black female for fun and friendship, maybe more. Must be a lover of life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366867

DEBBIE mid 50's, attractive, likes dancing, music, cinema, theatre, seeks male for companion. Maidstone. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337515

SOUL love? Stylish male, 5ft 8ins, into music, films, art etc, seeks shapely, attractive female, 28-38 to share enjoyable times, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366795

ANDREW 59 seeks similar aged female for LTR. Maidstone. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367683

6FT 4ins male, 37, GSOH, seeks female for friendship and more. Ramsgate/Thanet area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366675

GRAHAM 45, 5ft 8ins, blond, fit, romantic, seeks loving relationship with caring, sincere woman, 30-45. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364450

TALL attractive male, seeks slim, petite, sexy lady for intimate times. Central London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365863

RICHARD 46, dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, easygoing, likes football, fishing, motor racing, seeks young lady to start a sparkles back into life, 35-40. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365919

BLACK male, 46, 5ft 11ins, own home/teeth, likes working out, seeks female, any race for LTR. Haringey. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366617

YOUNGER for older, 38y old bi-curious male, seeks mature guy for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363633

EXPERIENCED gay guy, blond hair, blue eyes, seeks younger guy, 18-30 for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362407

JASON 6ft, slim, seeks older male for fun times. Gillingham. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366915

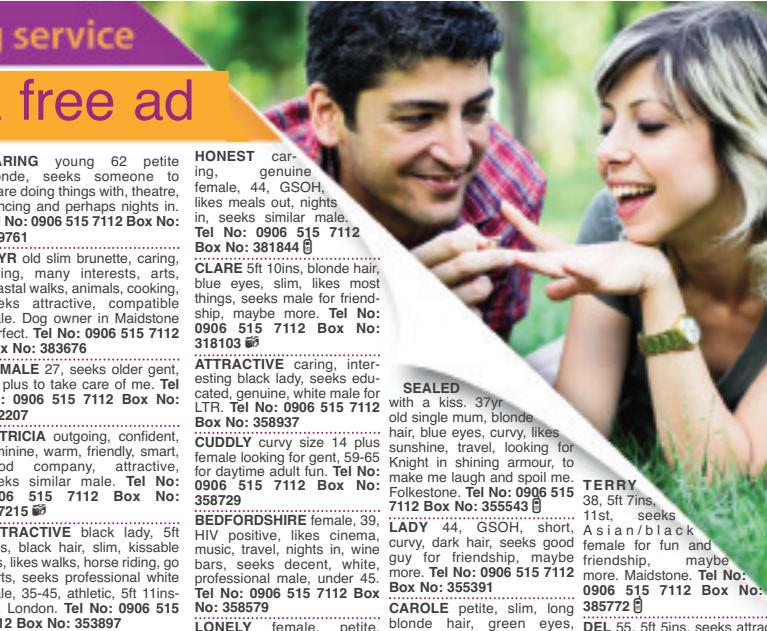
MALE 60, seeking similar male, assertive nature for fun times and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365831

TEXT: 0906 515 7112 **CHAT607**
TO: 65125

TEXT: 0906 515 7112 **JM607**
TO: 65125

*TEXT: 1st 120 Chats £7.00 inc
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Customer Support

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people.

Send : CHAT601 To : 65125 or call 0906 781 4392

(T&Cs below)

FUN loving male, 42, professional, OHAC, likes good things in life, sees warm, sincere female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367830

6FT 4ins male, 37, GSOH, seeks female for friendship and more. Ramsgate/Thanet area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366675

49YR old gent, seeking a lady companion, any nationality for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366681

TALL slim, 5ft 10ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks love and passion, 18-45 for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366681

PHIL medium build, blonde hair, blue eyes, likes travel, clubs, cinema, meals out, seeks female for fun and friendship. Bexley Heath. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366681

GEORGE likes sports, socialising, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365975

TALL mature, attractive male, seeks slim, petite, sexy lady for intimate times. Central London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365863

RICHARD dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, easygoing, likes football, fishing, motor racing, seeks young lady to start a sparkles back into life, 35-40. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365919

BLACK male, 46, 5ft 11ins, own home/teeth, likes working out, seeks female, any race for LTR. Haringey. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366617

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EXPERIENCED gay guy, blond hair, blue eyes, seeks younger guy, 18-30 for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362407

MALE 60, seeking similar male, assertive nature for fun times and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365831

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TO: 65125

TEXT: 0906 515 7112 **JM607**
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*TEXT: 1st 120 Chats £7.00 inc
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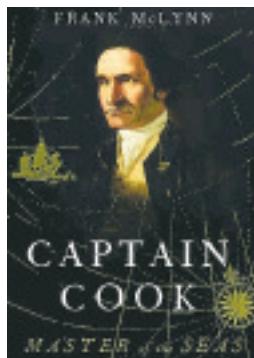
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Captain Cook: Master of the Seas

Frank McLynn

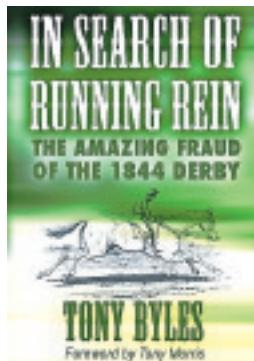
Yale University Press £25

THE life and eventual death of one of the most famous explorers in history is thoroughly dissected and brought to vivid colour in this work, which brings alive conditions at sea in an age when sailors were literally at the ends of the Earth.

The age of discovery was at its peak in the 18th century, and navigator and cartographer Captain James Cook of the British Royal Navy was one of the best.

Revisionist writers have viewed Cook as part of the West's colonial exploitation, some even regarding him as a villain.

But as this book points out, by the standards of the time – and even now in many ways – he held extremely enlightened views and regarded the inhabitants of the islands he visited as people. A fine example of a true hero of the age of exploration.



In Search Of Running Rein

Tony Byles

Apex £12.99

THE amazing scandal of one of the greatest sporting frauds of all time has been revealed in a new book which combines detective work, excellent period detail and fine characterisation.

Racing historian Tony Byles came on the story by chance.

His daughter found the long-lost legal case notes of the scandal's trial while employed at Newmarket racecourse, where many records of 'the sport of kings' are kept – included those many would like to see buried forever.

This led Byles, a historian from Shropshire, on an eight-year trail of research, including locations as far afield as Russia and Poland, to find out what actually happened.

This work now details the complete story of how the 1844 Epsom Derby came to be the most infamous racing scandal of all time in his book.

In Search Of Running Rein – The Amazing Fraud Of The 1844 Derby shows how a group of plotters perpetuated a scandal worthy of a fictional Victorian criminal in the Professor Moriarty way.



Haynes Pig Manual

Liz Shankland

Haynes £19.99

HAYNES made its name by producing cheap workshop manuals for the DIY motorist.

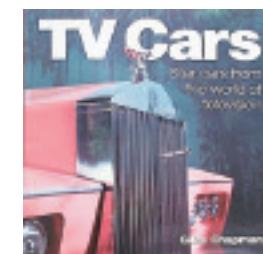
Lately it has taken the successful formula that allowed us the chance to save some money by changing the brake-pads on a Ford Escort and applied it to a few off-the-wall subjects such as babies or the Starship Enterprise.

One of its latest volumes covers the subject of keeping pigs.

Unlike some of its titles, there is nothing comic about this volume. It is in fact a serious book that would give any would-be pig-farmer the basics they would need to keep these interesting animals. Whether it is breeding, animal welfare, feeding or slaughtering, all the topics are covered.

Be warned that some of the pictures are rather explicit for young children who may mistakenly pick up the book just looking for endearing pictures of piglets.

So if you have ever considered keeping a pig and making your own bacon, the Haynes manual on the topic seems a good place to start.



TV Cars

Giles Chapman

Haynes £6.99

IT didn't take long for TV producers to realise that cars could become as iconic as the stars of their shows.

Perhaps inspired by James Bond's Aston Martin, the small screen soon followed.

Whether it was Roger Moore in The Saint with his Volvo P1800 sports car or Jim Rockford in his Pontiac Firebird, it seems that every TV hero needed a car that matched his ego.

But it's not just flashy sports cars that have become synonymous with TV shows. There have been other stars like the Robin Reliant van from Only Fools And Horses, or Mr Bean's lime-green-and-black mini.

In his book TV Cars, published by Haynes, Giles Chapman picks 50 motors that have made a long-lasting impact on the British TV viewer's psyche.

The subject matter is a broad one, dating back to the beginnings of television. Whether it be Emma Peel's Lotus Elan in The Avengers, Alan Sugar's Rolls from The Apprentice, or Captain Scarlet's car of the future, pretty well every famous automobile is included on these wonderfully entertaining pages.

There are also a few leftfield choices as well. The Lada Riva from Driving School in which hapless learner Maureen Rees continually failed her test features, for example.

American TV shows are also well represented. No doubt there is a nostalgia factor with this book for any of us who grew up watching The Dukes of Hazzard and the General Lee roaring around the lanes of the American Deep South.

There are also a number of fantasy cars included. You can find out the story behind Lady Penelope's Rolls Royce from Thunderbirds or the strange vehicles that John Pertwee drove as Doctor Who.

This may only be a coffee-table book, but it is well researched, with just as much information about how the shows were created as the cars themselves.

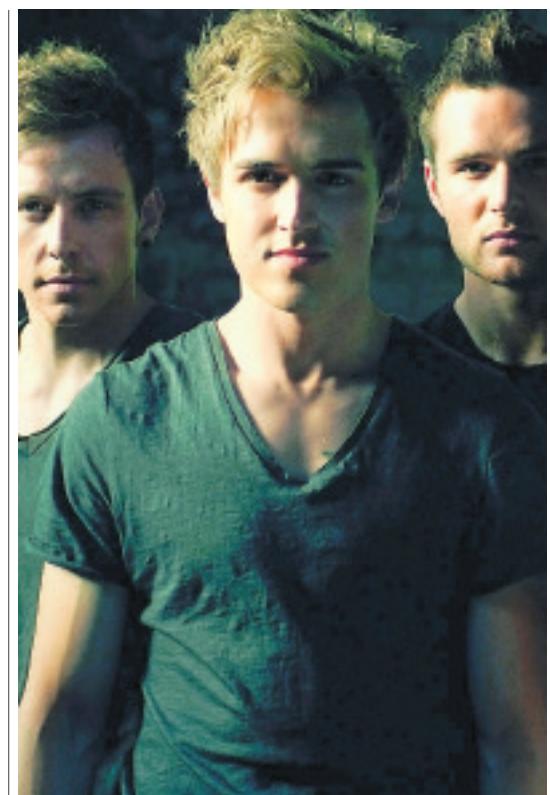
A must for TV addicts as well as petrol-heads.

Solo artist

Jack Savoretti

Jazz Club
Pizza Express
Maidstone

Saturday, June 4, 8pm
www.jacksavoretti.com



SINCE re-emerging on the UK live scene at the beginning of this year, acclaimed singer-songwriter Jack Savoretti has been touring the country. Performing new material, he has been writing with Steve Booker (co-writer of Duffy's Mercy) for his next record. His vocals and poetic lyrics are joined by a new band to give a darker, more experienced sound.

While his song-writing continues to impress, his new upbeat and raw sound is not like anything he has done before. Featuring punchy riffs and driving bass lines, Savoretti's new single, Shine A Light, could help him step out of the shadows and into the UK music scene.

Savoretti has already supported Corrine Bailey-Rae and a number of his songs have been used as backing tracks to international television shows.



Charity gig

McFly are on the hill bill

Music On The Hill
Saturday, June 25
Tickets £33.50
0844 873339

McFLY are part of the bill for the upcoming charity show in aid of the Demelza House children's charity and the band's Danny Jones says they are all very much looking

forward to playing. "It's great to play outdoors in the summer and we always love playing live," he said. He also explained how the band got their name: "It's from Marty McFly, the character in the Back To The Future films. "It was a favourite film of some members of the band, but funny enough I didn't like it that much when it was first put forward. But it has clicked. "All of our songs are really great to play live and we aim to get the whole place buzzing. Our fans are growing older with us, but we still have a great audience."

Forest fest

Simple Minds and Erasure

Bedgebury Forest,
near Goudhurst
Fri and Sat, June 10-11
03000 680400



THIS summer sees Bedgebury Pinetum celebrating its 10th anniversary of holding open-air concerts as part of Forestry Commission Live Music.

The latest band to sign up to the gig are Scottish stadium rockers Simple Minds, featuring classics such as Alive And Kicking and Don't You Forget About Me. Infamous 80s electro pop group Erasure, right, have also confirmed their attendance.



The Haven, above, one of last year's winning entrants, has been revamped for 2011



Three competition-winners get the chance to display their show gardens at a second event held by Jacksons Fencing

THIS HAS been referred to as a mini-Chelsea flower show, and now it's being extended for a second year so there will be even more to see – here's how a Kent company has visitors flocking to see its show gardens.

In May 2010, celebrity TV gardener Joe Swift unveiled four fantastic show gardens for Jacksons Fencing at its headquarters in Stowting Common, near Ashford.

The gardens were the result of a competition run by Jacksons aimed at garden designers, with the prize being the chance to have their design built.

The gardens showcase Jacksons and other top-quality garden suppliers' products in inspirational show gardens that wouldn't look out of place at any of the big garden shows.

The difference is, Jacksons gardens are open to the public, not just for a week like many garden shows, but year-round, allowing visitors who have never before had the chance ample opportunity to see a show garden and get inspiration for their own garden projects.

This year's competition winners are The Fragrant Front Garden by Justine Jobson, The Chill Out Garden by Helen Elks-Smith and The Paradise Garden by Mary Ann Le May.

Justine was one of only two designers who created a front garden using Jacksons steel railings and other products to ingenious effect.

Helen's garden is a space to relax and unwind, with a wildflower lawn, hammock and footbridges over a moat.

The Paradise Garden, however, is bound to cause a stir – it comes complete with five colourful water windows, ripples in the sand and a rill running down to a pool, where the water is then recycled.

The existing show gardens that proved so popular with visitors last year have all been revamped, and all seven show gardens were officially opened again on Saturday, May 21, the weekend before the start of the Chelsea Flower Show.

So if you couldn't make it to the show, check out the Jacksons website for opening times and remember the gardens are open to the public all through the year.

Many Jacksons fencing and landscaping products, like the wonderful new Venetian and Paliframe panels, are featured in the show gardens, plus other goodies like the Zone shelter, raised beds, Jakwall, decking and pergola systems – you can see them in the new Good Fencing Guide, which is out now.

For the NEW Good Fencing Guide and more information on the show gardens, visit www.jacksons-fencing.co.uk, or alternatively you can phone 0800 414343

Justine Jobson used Jacksons Fencing steel railings to surround her Fragrant Front Garden



■ The sun is shining and it's time to take a break in The Chill Out Garden, designed by Helen Elks-Smith



■ Cut, cut and away... from left, chief executive Richard Jackson, marketing manager Louise Tomlin and celebrity gardener Joe Swift get this year's Jacksons Gardens Showcase under way with the fun ribbon-cutting ceremony



■ Mary Ann Le May's design for The Paradise Garden and, below, the wall being installed for the fantastic display at this year's Jacksons Gardens Showcase





Greater than expectations

**Havisham House
Cooling**

£570,000

■ THREE RECEPTIONS ■ KITCHEN/DINER ■
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GYM ■ ANNEX DESIGNED AS BUSINESS
PREMISES TO HOUSE UP TO FIVE DESKS

PROPERTY experts haart of Strood are delighted to offer this substantial residence to the market. Situated in the sought-after location of Cooling village, near Rochester, Havisham House is now for sale.

Pinch yourself and realise you're not in a dream world!

This fabulous rural retreat, which has been lovingly maintained to a high standard by the current owner, needs to be viewed to be appreciated. Spacious isn't the word for what's on offer here – it's massive!

With accommodation offering three reception rooms, kitchen/diner, games room/gym, four double bedrooms, shower room and family bathroom, this home has the flexibility to suit many different families.

Treat yourself with a master bedroom offering dressing area, en-suite and views across the countryside.

The kitchen is extremely modern and well fitted, while the accommodation is extremely flexible and bedrooms can be tailored to the needs of the occupants.

The solid staircase, which is made of wood, gives the house a period charm.

A large extension to the property has been built for use as an office and is spacious enough for five desks. This means that the house is the ideal place from which to run a business – as the previous occupants did very successfully.



The garage and driveway offer ample parking for all the family and staff, too.

The home itself backs on to fields, providing excellent views of the north Kent countryside. A bridleway that runs by the side of the house gives access to the numerous paths and walks that criss-cross the region.

Particularly beautiful surroundings have inspired writers throughout the ages – and they are also extremely important for wildlife.

The 12th-century Cooling Castle is nearby and currently owned by musician and TV presenter Jools Holland. In 1413 the castle was owned by Sir John Oldcastle, the model for Shakespeare's character Falstaff.

Writer Charles Dickens featured the village and its surroundings in his novel Great Expectations, using the impressive countryside as a backdrop to the action and drawing inspiration from the church.

With both the village church and public house on your doorstep, you can fit

immediately into the community. Immerse yourself in countryside comforts in the delightful village of Cooling and call today to view!

Also close by, on a ridge overlooking the Thames marshes, Northward Hill RSPB reserve includes a lovely bluebell wood in which nightingales sing during spring.

More than 100 pairs of grey herons nest in the trees, with what is one of the UK's largest and most famous colonies of little egrets, whose numbers have increased year-on-year since they first nested here in 2000, reaching an amazing 93 pairs by 2007.

The reserve also includes great swathes of superb marshland, where lapwings, redshanks and avocets breed. In winter you can see buzzards, hen harriers and merlins.

There are many miles of trails through to the heronry viewpoint and some of the most inspiring views of the Thames estuary.

Nearby Chatham and Rochester have

excellent schools and a wide range of facilities, including shopping centres.

Chatham has the Historic Dockyard, with its collection of ships and displays about the history of British naval power. Also nearby is Dickens World, bringing to life the characters and stories of one of the world's finest authors.

Rochester has a hugely impressive cathedral and an imposing Norman castle, as well as a picturesque high street full of Dickensian associations. The River Medway also provides the opportunity for water-related leisure activities and the area has seen an immense amount of regeneration in recent years.

To appreciate the quality and size of this home, phone haart of Strood now on 01634 719955 and a member of the team will book an inspection at your earliest convenience.

Formerly Spicer McColl, haart is upgrading its operations to offer an even better service throughout the property market, while concentrating on higher-end homes.



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TRANQUIL TOWN: The River Medway runs along the border of Rochester, near the historic castle

Market is booming at both ends of the scale

ROCHESTER has bucked the local and national property trends – with the market remaining buoyant despite the doom and gloom of the recession.

The historic town has always been popular with Medway buyers, who are often drawn from the surrounding towns and villages by the castle, cathedral and cobbled high street.

Londoners have also flocked to the town, attracted for the same reasons as their Kent counterparts, but with the added incentive of Rochester's excellent rail links providing an easy commute back up to the capital.

This is one reason property prices have remained above the county average and the town is set to be bolstered further by the addition of the high-speed line, which takes passengers to King's Cross in under half-an-hour.

Estate agency Ward & Partners says the Rochester property market is booming at both ends of the price scale.



A spokesman said: "We have found a really good demand for higher-end, more expensive properties in recent months."

"But the bread-and-butter terrace houses are still the mainstay, either for investors when needing work, or for couples taking their first step on to the property ladder. What is proving very popular at the moment are the Victorian houses with existing and restored original features and styles."

While many young professionals have been priced out of the town in recent decades, that may change in the coming years, thanks largely to the 2,000-home Rochester Riverside development.

The land was cleared ahead of a planned first phase of construction, but this was shelved due to the downturn. However, it is only a matter of time before the economy recovers sufficiently for a developer to start work on the prime River Medway-front site.

Further developments – both large and small – in the town centre and on the fringes remain in the pipeline.

PROPERTY SPOTLIGHT ON ROCHESTER

What makes it special

HISTORIC Rochester is the jewel in Medway's crown, boasting a beautiful cobbled high street, Norman castle and neighbouring cathedral. The town has strong links with Charles Dickens, with hugely popular festivals in his honour being held throughout the year. The summer Sweeps Festival is a big draw, with dozens of brightly-coloured Morris troupes performing throughout the bank-holiday weekend. Rochester is proud of its history but is also looking towards the future, with a road-improvement scheme under way and a riverside regeneration project waiting for the end of the recession before building work finally commences.

Prices

VICTORIAN houses with existing and restored original features and styles remain incredibly popular. The market for terrace homes is similarly strong, while there has been an increase in demand for five-and-above-bed homes.

Room to improve

THE high street has lost a lot of its charm in recent years and is now largely made up of charity shops, restaurant chains and public houses. Traders have complained that they are finding it increasingly difficult to lure shoppers to the town, with many choosing instead to drive to the massive Bluewater shopping centre. The high street's late-night pubs and solitary nightclub attract hundreds of drinkers into the town each weekend, at times causing noise and nuisance until the early hours.

Shops

THERE is a number of fine antique boutiques, bookshops, specialist bridal stores and vibrant cafes scattered along



the high street. Big-name retail brands are nowhere to be seen; however, restaurant chains such as Pizza Express and Subway have been granted permission to open branches in the high street in recent years. Neighbouring Strood and Chatham play host to a larger and broader shopping experience.

Schools

ROCHESTER is blessed with a number of high-achieving schools. St William of Perth and The Pilgrim School are excellent primary schools, while Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School For Boys and Rochester Grammar School For Girls are both superb secondary grammars. The King's School, a private-sector school situated in the heart of Rochester, has long been established as one of the country's finest schools in its sector.

Connections

THE town benefits from excellent links to both the M2 and M20 and it is within 30 minutes' drive of London. Rail commuters also enjoy superb links to the capital, with a fast service stopping at only Rainham and Bromley South on its way to London

Victoria. The high-speed rail link also stops off at Rochester on its way to Ashford. It can take passengers from Rochester to King's Cross in under 30 minutes.

Rochester airport offers another route out of the town. This small airport draws thousands of light aircraft to the town each year and is home to a flying school and helicopter firm, offering aerial tours of the county and private tuition.

What's on

THEATRE-LOVERS will enjoy Medway Little Theatre's intimate 100-seat capacity venue, just a few minutes' walk out of the high street. MLT is famed for its vast range of productions and talented amateur cast, which always brings a larger-than-life feel to the tiny stage. Real-ale fans and Morris dance aficionados will enjoy the annual Sweeps Festival, which sees the high street and Rochester Castle gardens brought to a standstill for a whole weekend. Daytime is packed with family fun, while the pubs play host to real-ale festivals that can satisfy even the most difficult-to-please drinker.

Around and about

ROCHESTER is situated in the heart of the Medway towns and is within walking distance of a number of tourist attractions.

Neighbouring Chatham boasts a superb range of top visitor destinations, including the Historic Dockyard, Dickens World, Chatham Maritime and Fort Amherst.

Shoppers can head down Maidstone Road into the county town in just 10 minutes and, if the weather is bad, Bluewater is just 15 minutes away.

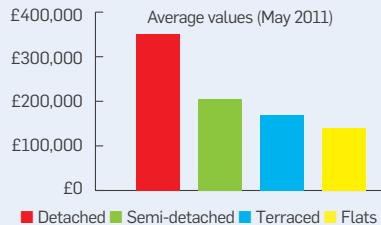
NEXT WEEK: PROPERTY SPOTLIGHT FOCUSES ON TUNBRIDGE WELLS

HOME VALUES IN KENT

WHAT IS THE ZED-INDEX?

The Zed-Index! is the average home value in a given area based on Zoopla Estimates

Kent Zed-Index! £213,375



Area	Turnover	Zed-index!	Faversham	16.6%	£200,501	Sandwich	16.4%	£230,307
Ashford	16.6%	£213,279	Folkestone	17.1%	£171,388	Sevenoaks	16.5%	£451,149
Aylesford	15.9%	£206,468	Gillingham	16.6%	£161,002	Sheerness	15.1%	£141,668
Belvedere	17.6%	£165,043	Gravesend	14.5%	£191,985	Sidcup	17.9%	£240,178
Bexley	15.8%	£285,941	Greenhithe	19.7%	£191,294	Sittingbourne	16.3%	£181,802
Bexleyheath	16.9%	£238,109	Herne Bay	19.3%	£183,871	Snodland	16.3%	£149,954
Birchington	20.4%	£187,050	Hythe	18.2%	£230,682	Swanley	13.4%	£210,655
Broadstairs	19.1%	£207,473	Longfield	15.5%	£274,484	Swanscombe	13.4%	£152,238
Canterbury	15.4%	£225,382	Maidstone	16.1%	£216,809	Tenterden	16.9%	£295,969
Chatham	17.9%	£158,681	Margate	17.3%	£146,924	Tonbridge	14.9%	£303,906
Cranbrook	13.6%	£361,668	New Romney	20.3%	£197,844	Tunbridge Wells	18.5%	£294,450
Dartford	16.3%	£200,275	Queenborough	12.6%	£109,180	Welling	17.2%	£217,827
Deal	17.7%	£185,442	Rainham	13.9%	£179,944	West Malling	18.1%	£322,375
Dover	14.7%	£152,370	Ramsgate	16.6%	£151,817	Westerham	18.1%	£296,136
Edenbridge	13.8%	£333,558	Rochester	16.3%	£174,440	Westgate-on-Sea	19.1%	£155,324
Erith	12.9%	£166,593	Romney Marsh	17.0%	£177,363	Whitstable	20.0%	£231,504

Source: homes24.co.uk/kent



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£249,995

Sealand Court

THIS three-bedroom duplex apartment is situated in an exclusive development on the ever-popular Esplanade. The recently-refurbished apartment benefits from accommodation over two floors and a balcony with river and castle views. The master bedroom has a walk-in wardrobe and en-suite bathroom. There is also a study with wall-mounted units and a groundfloor toilet.

The apartment comes with two allocated parking spaces in a car park that is protected by an electric gate. There are lifts to all floors and a communal garden.

The property is situated just a few minutes' walk from Rochester high street and is close to a number of high-achieving primary and secondary schools. The apartment is perfect for commuters as the train station is in walking distance.

AGENT: Dockside Property Services Kent
01634 400922



Prominent five-bedroom property

£365,000

Woodstock Road

THIS substantial and well-presented detached home is in a prominent position close to Strood town centre. The accommodation comprises an entrance hall, 24ft lounge, separate dining room, study, five double bedrooms, with en-suite to master bedroom, and a family bathroom. The property includes a 125ft rear garden and double garage.

AGENT: Your Move
01634 778706

Recently-refurbished three-bedroom riverside apartment



Village home perfect for family or commuters

£260,000

Sole Street

THIS is the prime location when looking for a home for the family, with Cobham primary schools being within walking distance, or commuters looking for easy

links to London as the village has its own mainline station with services to the capital and excellent motorway links. This three-bedroom house is currently rented, but for the incoming buyers it has a lot of potential to be the perfect home. To its side and rear, you will notice the potential for the

homeowner to extend, subject to planning permission. This beautiful red-brick home includes plenty of off-road parking on the front driveway and a spacious garden in which the whole family can unwind.

AGENT: Dockside Property Services Kent
01634 400922



Island property offers luxurious living space

£400,000

The Crescent

THIS superb home is in an exclusive residential development on St Mary's Island. It offers great entertaining space and impressive views. Directly overlooking the water, the property has been totally refurbished and affords the incoming purchaser a modern luxurious living space. The house is in walking distance of Chatham Maritime, home to Dockside Outlet Retail Centre, a riverside public house and a range of restaurants. Chatham Historic Dockyard is minutes away.

AGENT: Dockside Property Services Kent
01634 400922



Marina is on your doorstep

£335,000

Little Victory Mount

THIS four-bedroom town house is ideally situated in the exclusive development of St Mary's Island and has the advantage of being next to the river, giving you the opportunity to watch the boats go past from your own terrace as there is an

award-winning marina on the doorstep. This home is perfect for family living, offering spacious accommodation and a quality finish. The property sits within the Chatham Maritime area, which has been completely transformed in recent years.

It offers fantastic transport links to London and Rochester.

AGENT: Dockside Property Services Kent
01634 400922



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Bellway



Pictures for reference only and are typical of Bellway homes at the development advertised. Prices correct at time of going to press.

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HAMPTON | HEIGHTS



Grand ragstone lodge

£1,995pcm

Maidstone Road

THIS is a rare opportunity to rent such a characterful and unusual home right in the heart of historic Rochester. St Margaret's Lodge is set over three floors and is very flexible in design. The kitchen is the focus of the home

and has a stunning vaulted ceiling. Externally, this home is of an unusual and striking ragstone design, surrounded by landscaped gardens. There is also a driveway providing plenty of parking. The house is finished to an extremely high standard throughout; it is within walking distance of the town centre.

AGENT: Ward & Partners
01634 855877



Attached annexe at five-bed house

£1,050pcm

Kent Close

THIS five-bedroom semi-detached property is a real

gem. The accommodation comprises an entrance hall, lounge/dining room, study, cloakroom, breakfast room/kitchen with a freestanding cooker and an upstairs family bathroom. There is an

enclosed garden to the rear and a double garage to the side. There is an attached annexe with one bedroom, bathroom and kitchen.

AGENT: Ward & Partners
01634 855877



One-bed flat seconds from high street

£650 pcm

Gravel Walk

THIS spacious one-bedroom apartment is just minutes from Rochester train station and high street, which hosts boutiques, banks and a variety of restaurants.

The property is also within close proximity of motorway links, supermarkets and retail parks.

The apartment consists of a large lounge/diner, fully-fitted kitchen, bathroom and bedroom with fitted mirrored wardrobes. It is available unfurnished from July.

AGENT: Dockside
01634 778917



Furnished Esplanade apartment

£685pcm

Florin Drive

FOR those looking for a quick and simple way of renting,

look no further than this two-bedroom fully-furnished second-floor apartment on the ever-popular Esplanade. The accommodation comprises a communal entrance, with entryphone

system, large diner with balcony, family bathroom and a further balcony to the main bedroom. Parking is allocated beneath the building.

AGENT: Ward & Partners
01634 855877



Town-centre modern flat

£695pcm

The Heights

A MODERN two-bedroom apartment in New Road within walking distance of both the town centre and train station. The property consists of a double bedroom with en-suite bathroom, single bedroom, double shower room and lounge with partial river views. The apartment is offered part-furnished and comes with allocated parking for one car. A garage can also be offered for a further £25 per month rent. The property's location is perfect for a young couple or a commuter.

AGENT: Regal Estates
01634 778999



Five-bedroom home

£1,800pcm

Henrietta Chase

THIS deceptively large five-bedroom house set over four floors offers open-plan living comprising fitted kitchen with integrated appliances and a

dining area to the rear of the kitchen, while the lounge is to the front and benefits from a balcony.

There are two en-suites and family bathroom, an office and a spacious utility room.

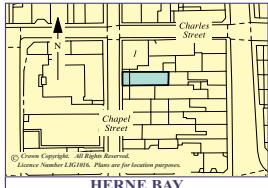
AGENT: Dockside Property Services Kent
01634 400922

New
Kent
Venue!

AUCTION

Major Five-Day June Sale

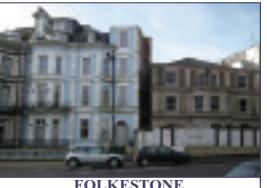
Covering Kent, SE London, Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire, Wiltshire, Isle of Wight & West Country
Commencing 6th June - 10th June



HERNE BAY
Site with Potential
Guide: £10-12,000



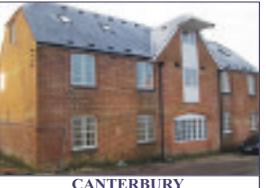
BEXLEYHEATH
Residential Investment
Guide: £140-150,000



FOLKESTONE
Partly Converted into Flats
Guide: £420-460,000



DARTFORD
Mixed Use Investment Site with Potential
Guide: £375-385,000



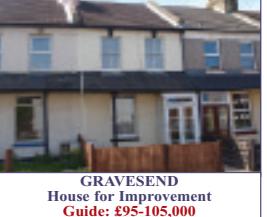
CANTERBURY
Oast Converted into Three Houses
Guide: £540-560,000



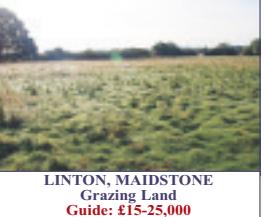
GILLINGHAM
Vacant Residential
Guide: £75-80,000



GRAVESEND
Town Centre Flat
Guide: £60-70,000



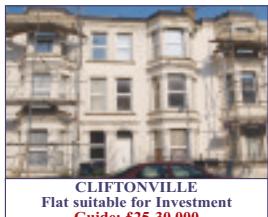
GRAVESEND
House for Improvement
Guide: £95-105,000



LINTON, MAIDSTONE
Grazing Land
Guide: £15-25,000



SEVENOAKS
Bungalow for Refurbishment
Guide: £165-175,000



CLIFTONVILLE
Flat suitable for Investment
Guide: £25-30,000



MARGATE
Three Bed
House
Guide:
£75-80,000



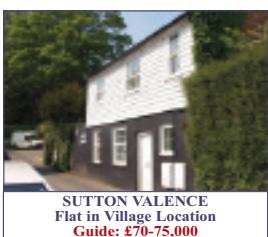
RAMSGATE
Office/Land - Conversion Potential
Guide: £120-130,000



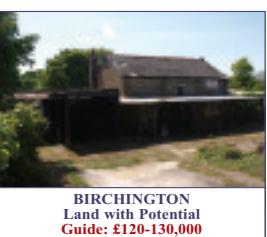
RAMSGATE
Substantial Property with Potential
Guide: £230-240,000



WHITSTABLE
Site with Lapsed Planning
Guide: £155-165,000



SUTTON VALENCE
Flat in Village Location
Guide: £70-75,000



BIRCHINGTON
Land with Potential
Guide: £120-130,000



FOLKESTONE
Development Site
Guide: £70-80,000



RAMSGATE
Night Club - Conversion Potential
Guide: £70-80,000



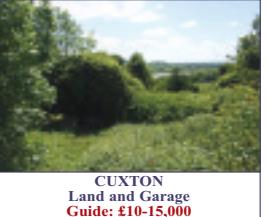
RAMSGATE
Residential Investment of 4 Flats
Guide: £160-170,000



FAVERSHAM
Development for 4 Large Dwellings
Guide: £425-475,000



BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA
Bungalow for Refurbishment
Guide: £200-220,000



CUXTON
Land and Garage
Guide: £10-15,000



MAIDSTONE
Semi for Improvement
Guide: £145-155,000



BEXLEYHEATH
Public WCs
Guide: £170-180,000



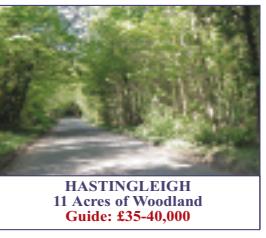
DARTFORD
House for Improvement
Guide: £90-100,000



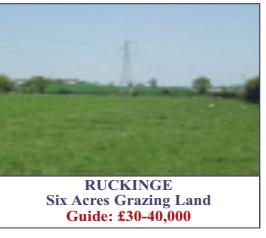
ASH
Detached Chalet Bungalow
Guide: £150-170,000



RAMSGATE
Residential Investment
Guide: £60-65,000



HASTINGLEIGH
11 Acres of Woodland
Guide: £35-40,000



RUCKINGE
Six Acres Grazing Land
Guide: £30-40,000

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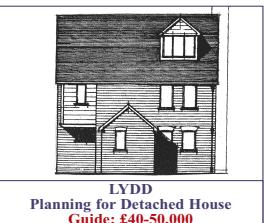
Major Five-Day June Sale

Covering Kent, SE London, Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire, Wiltshire, Isle of Wight & West Country
Commencing 6th June - 10th June

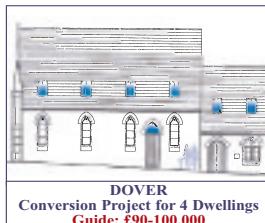


FOLKESTONE
Detached House for Improvement

Guide:
£85-95,000



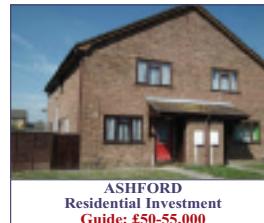
LYDD
Planning for Detached House
Guide: £40-50,000



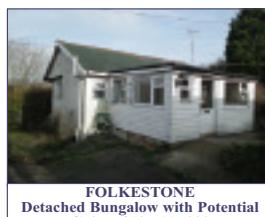
DOVER
Conversion Project for 4 Dwellings
Guide: £90-100,000



FOLKESTONE
Commercial Invest. & Maisonette
Guide: £125-135,000



ASHFORD
Residential Investment
Guide: £50-55,000



FOLKESTONE
Detached Bungalow with Potential
Guide: £105-115,000



DARTFORD
Freehold Land with Potential
Guide: £50-60,000



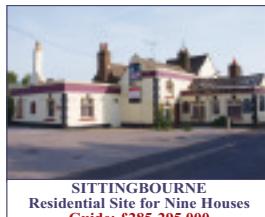
FOLKESTONE
Advertising Hoarding Investment
Guide: £22-24,000



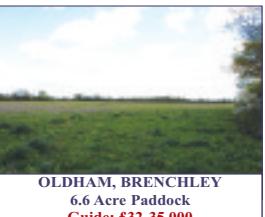
DOVER
4 Bed House with Potential
Guide: £70-80,000



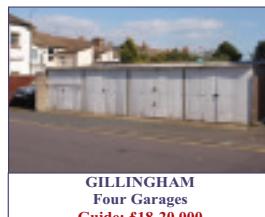
FOLKESTONE
Two Bedroom Apartment
Guide: £55-60,000



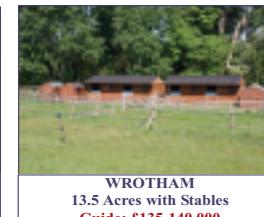
SITTINGBOURNE
Residential Site for Nine Houses
Guide: £285-295,000



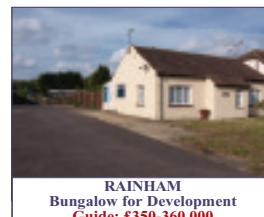
OLDHAM, BRENCHLEY
6.6 Acre Paddock
Guide: £32-35,000



GILLINGHAM
Four Garages
Guide: £18-20,000



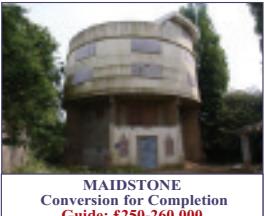
WROTHAM
13.5 Acres with Stables
Guide: £135-140,000



RAINHAM
Bungalow for Development
Guide: £350-360,000



CHISLEHURST
Vacant Offices with Parking
Guide: £45-48,000



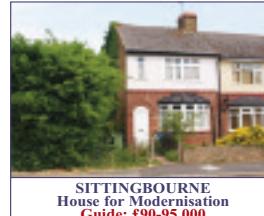
MAIDSTONE
Conversion for Completion
Guide: £250-260,000



GILLINGHAM
Four Flats for Investment
Guide: £180-200,000



DITTON
Semi for Improvement
Guide: £140-150,000



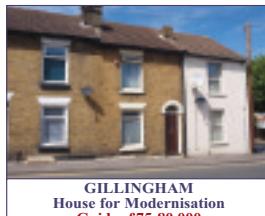
SITTINGBOURNE
House for Modernisation
Guide: £90-95,000



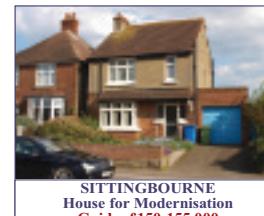
DARTFORD
House for Improvement
Guide: £135-140,000



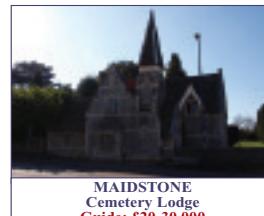
EAST SUTTON, MAIDSTONE
14.75 Acres of Grazing/Woodland
Guide: £100-110,000



GILLINGHAM
House for Modernisation
Guide: £75-80,000



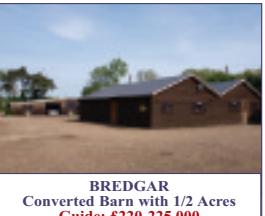
SITTINGBOURNE
House for Modernisation
Guide: £150-155,000



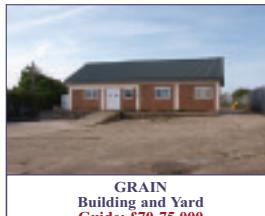
MAIDSTONE
Cemetery Lodge
Guide: £20-30,000



CHATHAM
Home for Improvement
Guide: £75-80,000



BREDGAR
Converted Barn with 1/2 Acres
Guide: £220-225,000



GRAIN
Building and Yard
Guide: £70-75,000



SITTINGBOURNE
Town Centre Premises - 33 Flats with Development Potential
Guide: £380-400,000

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Picture: Rochester Castle

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- Revamped Mondeo range powertrains drive down emissions
- Renault's 'Energy' diesel good news for hard-up motorists



Gucci and
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up to make
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statement

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Find fun in little things

Mini Cooper D proves you can downsize without losing face

SEE PAGE 83 FOR ROAD TEST



Tunbridge Wells **NETWORK Q**



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07	07	CORSA 1.2 CLUB 3 DR A/C, E/WINDOWS, PAS, CDL, UNDER 20,000 MILES, STAR SILVER	£6,650.00
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Mini still a little marvel

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

TALK about having your cake and eating it. That's the Mini Cooper diesel.

Here's a car that allows you to downsize without loss of status – you could even argue that your image has been sharpened.

It will save you money too – through economy and glacial depreciation while you own it.

And despite those two previous and practical reasons for owning one, you can actually enjoy driving it without worrying about hammering the fuel consumption.

So what's the catch? Well, the BMW-backed revival of a motoring icon is not cheap. Diesels start at £14,480 for the 90bhp Mini One D and the rather more desirable 112bhp Cooper D tested here costs £16,060, and then there's the racy 143bhp Cooper SD flagship at £18,750.

And don't think it all stops there; a Mini showroom is a wonderful playground allowing you to customise and personalise your Mini to your heart's content and, sometimes, your wallet's regret.

But hey, if you are downsizing and looking to go greener, there cannot be many ways to do it that are more fun, and the Mini really oozes class and quality.

Of course, the exterior echoes the Sixties icon and there is more of the same inside which, thanks to modern crash protection and safety and comfort demands, is actually not much roomier than the Sir Alex Issigonis original design, even though exterior dimensions are greater. The minimal boot is another Sixties carry-over.

The main eye-catcher of the interior though is the huge centre speedo, almost a cartoon homage to the original's and, for safety's sake, not your primary source of info on that front – there is a repeater dead ahead of your eyes too.

MINI COOPER D: PRICE £16,060



DASHING:

The Mini Cooper D is proof downsizing doesn't mean you have to take the fun out of driving

The upright dash is also very Sixties, though the spindly and more horizontal bus-style steering wheel has been consigned to the past; the modern-day version has a new and highly adjustable padded wheel.

True to the first versions of the original car though, there is a push button starter, but mounted on the dash this time rather than on the floor and making far less fuss when pressed.

The modern 1.6-litre diesel engine shames the original 848cc petrol unit and, indeed, many modern-day petrol rivals by firing up even from cold with very little fuss or rumble.

Once under way it delivers its 112bhp with great refinement and good power output low down the rev range for speedy take-offs.

This makes it a lively yet economical car for town use, while the six-speed gearbox means it will cruise the motorway economically and smoothly – something the Sixties original really didn't do well, I recall uncomfortably.

FACT FILE

Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★
Value:	★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Road tax:	Zero
Best rival:	Citroën DS3
Kent dealers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Broad Oak Ashford 01233 504333 ■ Broad Oak Canterbury 01227 828899 ■ Arden Maidstone 01622 717222 ■ Cooper Sevenoaks 0845 607 6915 ■ Cooper Tunbridge Wells 0845 607 6919

Keen drivers have to make a choice though because the petrol Cooper is marginally livelier – 0-62mph in 9.1 seconds against 9.7 – and the engine's comparative lightness complements the Mini's superb chassis and handling better.

Not that the diesel is a poor drive – the success of the reborn Mini range overall is as much about recapturing the joy of driving the original as it is about revisiting the Swinging Sixties.

And just as you may be swinging away from the diesel towards the petrol Mini Cooper, just note that the former will average more than 70mpg and its 99g/km CO₂ emissions mean an escape from road tax altogether. The petrol Cooper averages just over 50mpg and costs £95/year to tax.

On the road, the diesel still has a snappy steering to complement a chassis that rides well even hugs the corners as a Mini should.

Yes, we live in sensible times but you can still have fun with this living icon.

First GEAR MOTORING NEWS



Eco boost for Mondeo range

FORD'S revamped Mondeo range now has enhanced 1.6-, 2.0- and 2.2-litre powertrains that also lower emissions by up to 20 per cent than earlier models. Part of the reduced CO₂ emissions and better fuel consumption too is Ford's Auto-Start-Stop system fitted as standard on the new 1.6 115PS TDCi diesel and EcoBoost 160PS petrol units.



Scénic diesel reduces costs

RENAULT has opened order books on its new hi-tech 1.6-litre 130bhp Energy diesel. It will be available initially on Dynamique TomTom versions of Scénic and Grand Scénic MPVs, from £20,900, and delivers excellent power, economy and lower CO₂ emissions and road tax for cash-strapped drivers. It should average mid-60 mpg.



Gucci designs on Fiat 500

DESIGNER brand Gucci has put its name to a special edition of the big-selling Italian retro car star, the Fiat 500. The 500byGucci will be available with a 1.2-litre petrol engine (£14,565) or the sporty yet frugal award-winning 0.9-litre TwinAir (£15,765) and aims to emulate the success of other Fiat 500 specials such as the Pink and Matt Black.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range: Urban: 14.4 (19.6) – 67.3 (4.2), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3) – 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 20.6 (13.7) – 80.7 (3.5). CO2 emissions: 324 – 94g/km.

15 years 0% finance on Corsa, Astra and Meriva models = maximum finance balance £10,000, 4 years 0% finance on Zafira models = maximum finance balance £15,000. Finance supplied by Alpha Financial Services, Europa House, Bartley Way, Hook, Hampshire, RG27 9UF. Finance subject to status, over 18's only. A guarantee may be required, written quotations available on request. *Price includes Swappage Allowance, metallic paint, and other models available at extra cost. The Vauxhall Swappage Scheme applies to customers trading in a qualifying car or commercial vehicle (up to 3.5 tonnes) against the purchase of selected new Vauxhall models. At the date of the new vehicle order, the vehicle traded in must be 7 years old or older from date of first registration in the UK. To qualify for the scheme, the owner of the trade vehicle (or their spouse/partner living at the same UK address) must be named as the registered keeper and resident at the UK address shown on the Vauxhall Swappage Scheme application form. Vauxhall vehicles can only be traded in at a minimum of 6 days. The vehicle must have been on the road for at least 12 months prior to the date of the new vehicle order. The vehicle must be in good condition and must be registered within 14 days prior to the new vehicle order date and be insured at the date of the new vehicle order date. Prices shown are available on selected WJ King stock vehicles, only whilst stocks last. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Offers apply to selected vehicles purchased and registered between 1st May 2011 and 31st May 2011 subject to availability and are available to private individuals and small businesses. 1-24 (purchase only). All other sales categories are excluded. UK-supplied vehicles only. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. Please note, models portrayed are for illustration purposes only and may not represent actual model. A £99 inc VAT admin fee (security checks and fuel) will be added to all vehicle purchases, this includes £20 worth of fuel. WJ King reserves the right to withdraw any offer at any time. Telephone calls may be recorded for training purposes. E&OE.



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Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Yeti range: Urban 28.0 (10.1) – 54.3 (5.2), Extra Urban 40.9 (6.9) – 67.3 (4.2), Combined 35.3 (8.0) – 61.4 (4.6). CO₂ emissions for the Yeti range 189 – 119g/km.

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MINI FIRST HATCH - representative example including MINI tlc.

Terms of agreement	47 Monthly Payments of	On the road cash price**	Customer Deposit	Dealer deposit contribution	Total deposit	Option to purchase fee*	Optional Final payment*	Total amount payable	Total amount of credit	Rate of interest	Representative 6.8% APR
48 Months	£169	£12,059	£1,499	£199	£1,698	£10	£4,388	£14,039	£10,361	6.8% fixed	

Contact Broad Oak MINI to find out more or to book a test drive^.

Official Fuel Economy Figures for MINI First Hatch: MPG (1/100km): Urban: 39.2 mpg (7.2 L/100km). Extra urban: 64.2 mpg (4.4 l/100km). Combined: 52.3 mpg (5.4 l/100km). CO₂ emissions: 127 g/km. *Please note: MINI tlc does not cover maintenance items (eg tyres, brake pads and 2nd break fluid change). Please see www.mini.co.uk for full terms and conditions. Finance example based on a MINI Select agreement for the model featured on all MINI First petrol models excluding Countryman ordered by customers and an excess mileage charge of 2.75 (per mile). The dealer deposit contribution offer is available on all MINI First petrol models excluding Countryman ordered by customers between 1 April and 30 June 2011 and registered by 31 August 2011 when financed through MINI Select, subject to availability. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. Subject to withdrawal at any time without notice. **On the road cash prices based on manufacturers retail price and includes 3 year MINI Dealer Warranty, 12 months road fund licence, vehicle first registration fee, number plates, MINI tlc and VAT. Total deposit = customer deposit plus dealer deposit contribution. All finance is subject to offer. Subject to over 18s in the UK only (excluding the Channel Islands). Guarantees and indemnities may be required. We can arrange finance for you. Advertised finance is provided by MINI Financial Services (MINI FS). Whilst we have close links with MINI FS, we do not work exclusively with MINI FS. Offer available to retail customers only. ^Test drive subject to applicant status and availability.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range: Urban: 14.4 (19.6) - 67.3 (4.2), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 20.6 (13.7) - 80.7 (3.5). CO2 emissions: 324 - 94g/km.

Offers are available for registrations between 01.04.11 and 30.06.11 subject to availability and are available to private individuals and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only). Savings shown are against list price at time of publication, for details refer to Vauxhall's current price guide. All other sales categories are excluded; cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Offers may not apply to all retailer stocks. UK-supplied vehicles only. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. Cars shown for illustration purposes only. *Price includes £1500 Swappage Saving. †Pay monthly is our Personal Contract Hire option. Finance subject to status, please ask for details.

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7. Copyright and licenses for voice-over/music/photography or film for advertising promotions, within the various media in print, online or online and mobile media owned by Archant KOS Media Ltd must be held by such owner, unless paid or paid for by the advertiser when applicable. Approval or permissions must have been given by any potential beneficial owner voice-over or music. The advertiser must be able to verify any statements or claims (promotional or otherwise) in relation to their products/services promoted within any of the media owner's websites belonging to Archant KOS Media Ltd.
8. Where shrinkage of an advertisement occurs for whatever reason, the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre where it relates to the media owner's printed publications. This will NOT apply to full-page advertisements.
9. Archant KOS Media Ltd reserves the right to omit or refuse any advertisement/commercial/web content without notice or explanation. In these terms the word "advertiser" shall be construed to include any person or organisation placing an advertisement on behalf of another.
10. A media owner shall not be liable to give any guarantees or warranties that shall not be for any loss or damage caused by any error inaccuracy within your marketing content. In no case shall the total liability of the media owner for any error or omission exceed the price charged by the media owners for that advertising.
11. No claim is accepted for any loss or damage alleged to have arisen through delay in forwarding replies to Box numbers, however caused, nor for the loss or damage to any artwork supplied.
12. Claims for any error or inaccuracy in your media messages with Archant KOS Media Ltd must be made in writing to the accounts department within 10 days of publication.
13. Archant KOS Media Ltd accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions made on their websites by the advertiser.
14. Archant KOS Media Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date material or content on any of the media owner's online digital platforms. Archant KOS Media Ltd will seek to recover, in full, all outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership as a result of the advertiser's non-compliance. Archant KOS Media Ltd reserves the right to claim damages for any potential vexatious action via the courts.
15. Advertisers are requested to check their advertisements after the first insertion. The media owner will not be responsible for any errors on subsequent insertions which have not been advised to them in writing.
16. A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from Archant KOS Media Ltd's standard effective media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009) will be recalculated and adjusted accordingly in line with Archant KOS Media Ltd's standard media rate card (July 2008-June 2009) and will reflect the revised length of commitment denoted by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will remain in place as per July 2008-June 2009. Discounts will be repaid and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by either party within 30 days of the advertiser's written cancellation. Any other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' written notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.
17. Seasonal contracts: Your Professional classified advertisements or any uplift advertising within the annual contract with the advertiser will be invoiced in full - at rate card - on receipt of any written cancellation of this contract within 14 days of publication.
18. All uplift advertisements must be booked in at least three months in advance of publication and will be subject to availability. All dates booked will be on a firstcome, first-served basis.
19. The advertiser must agree to the date and time of filming of any online TV commercial and pay the fee to Archant KOS Media Ltd under the advertiser's agreement. (Platinum, Gold, Silver standard of commercial). Should, for any reason, the advertiser not be available at the agreed time without giving sufficient notice (at least 48 hours), Archant KOS Media Ltd reserves the right to charge any further TV commercial at the standard published rate. The media owner shall share the cost of production with Archant KOS Media Ltd's production services to complete its TV commercial or photographic imagery included in the advertiser's agreement. The advertiser will approve and accept that there are only two choices of voice-over and music offered by Archant KOS Media Ltd. If an advertiser wishes to have a different choice or non-corporate free music, it is the sole responsibility of the advertiser to pay the PRS rights should they be required to do so. Any changes to or failure to approve the TV production by the deadlines agreed between both parties will result in Archant KOS Media Ltd being given permission by the advertiser to replace the TV commercial with another. The advertiser will be charged the standard published rate. The media owner shall supply a TV commercial produced at their own cost and risk outside of this agreement. The advertiser also accepts and agrees that this action would not reduce the value or cost of their membership. Any cost of changes required to the TV commercial throughout the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser outside of this agreement.
20. Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within Archant KOS Media Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, etc) other than they will be ranked based on the search engine criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).
21. Any delivery claims made by the advertiser or discount vouchers published within print or online media of Archant KOS Media Ltd and any action as a result of public or otherwise is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. Any claims resulting from this via Archant KOS Media Ltd must be met by the advertiser.
22. a. All credit accounts due for payment shall be notified to the Advertiser by the 30th day following the end of the month, time to be of the essence. All sums due to Archant KOS Media Ltd shall be paid in full, and the Advertiser shall have no right of set off in any circumstances.
b. In the event that payment is not received by Archant KOS Media Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner shall be entitled to suspend all further payments until payment is received and/or terminate the contract and make any charges for breaking the contract.
c. In the event that payment is not received by Archant KOS Media Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.
d. Notwithstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of Archant KOS Media Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.
e. The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by Archant KOS Media Ltd in the recovery of debt not paid by the Advertiser, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
f. Any discount which Archant KOS Media Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or meet the agreed credit terms.
23. Advertisers shall be allowed to recognise their campaign by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
24. All advertising agencies and media buyers are allowed to recognise the categories laid down by Archant KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be prepared.
25. The Advertiser agrees to indemnify Archant KOS Media Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owners or any of the companies within the Archant KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action in respect of any legal arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
26. An order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it comes into conflict with these terms and conditions.
27. Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the media owners belong to Archant KOS Media Ltd. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the media owner's written consent.
28. All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the advertiser, the media owner and the communities they serve. The public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. Archant KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions. Effective from June 2008

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ENTRIES INVITED
OUR BIGGEST AUCTION OF THE YEAR!
OVER 500 VEHICLES ON OFFER!

Bank Holiday

Monday 30th May from 10.00am

Sports & High Performance Car Auction Starts at 1.00pm*

ENTRIES ARE NOW BEING INVITED



An extremely well attended sale, typically offering in excess of 100 Sports and High Performance cars, ranging in price from £500 to £25,000.

Commercial Vehicles Starts at 10.00am

Approximately 50 ~ 60 Commercial vehicles we also hope to have some caravans & campers.

Four Wheel Drive MPV Starts at 11.00am*

Approximately 80 ~ 100 Four Wheel Drive & MPV's.



General Car Auction for cars over £1000

Starts at 12.00noon*
Approximately 100 ~ 150 cars on offer; all makes & models- Petrol and Diesel.



General Car Auction for cars under £1000

Starts at 3.00pm*
Approximately 100 cars on offer; all makes and models- Petrol and Diesel.



HOBBS • PARKER
Car Auctions LLP

Entries close 7.00pm Sunday 29th May

As well as our normal weekly opening hours we will also be open Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th May from 3.00pm ~ 7.00pm to receive entries.

You can book your vehicles in on-line...visit our website

*All start times are approximate and the auction will run continuously. We advise you arrive at least one hour before the start of any auction category that you are interested in.

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www.hobbsparker.co.uk/cars

ALFA ROMEO

159, 3.2 V6 JTS 04 LUSSO, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player climate control electric windows immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering remote central locking remote audio controls adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers height adj drivers seat, black, 30376 miles, £1100, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

159, 2.4 JTDM LUSSO, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering remote central locking remote audio controls black, 28347 miles, £1100, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

159, 1.9 JTDM 16v LUSSO, 2008, abs brakes air con alloy cds cd player diesel electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls, black, 28347 miles, £1300, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

BRIERA, 2.4 JTDM SV, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player cruise control diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering steering wheel support rear drivers 3x3 point heated door mirrors height adj drivers seat, grey, 14033 miles, £3500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BRERA, 2.0 TSi 2007, abs brakes automatic transmission cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls, black, 2758 miles, £9000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BT, 2.0 TFSI, 2006, silver, 63000 miles, £14000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

TT, 1.8 T Quattro, 2001, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels electric windows front fog lights half leather trim heated seats immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering sports seats traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers heated door mirrors height adj drivers seat space saver spare wheel, silver, 25000 miles, £9500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

CAPTIVA, 2.0 VCDI 7 SEATS, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering remote central locking remote audio controls adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers rear headlights 3x3 point rear seat belts height adj drivers seat, black, 64000 miles, £14000, Canterbury, 0844 759296 (TRADE)

CAPTIVA, 2.0 VCDI 7X SEATS, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering remote central locking remote audio controls adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers rear headlights 3x3 point rear seat belts height adj drivers seat, black, 64000 miles, £14000, Canterbury, 0844 759296 (TRADE)

CAPTIVA, 2.0 VCDI 7X SEATS, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering remote central locking remote audio controls adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers rear headlights 3x3 point rear seat belts height adj drivers seat, black, 64000 miles, £14000, Canterbury, 0844 759296 (TRADE)

KALOS, SE (AC), 2008, abs brakes air conditioning cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering, silver, 10019 miles, £5000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

KALOS, SE (AC), 2008, abs brakes air conditioning cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering, silver, 10019 miles, £5000, Canterbury, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

KALOS, 1.4 SX, 2008, abs brake alarm fitted cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering, pearl black, 15782 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

MATIZ, SE, 2008, abs brakes electric window immobiliser power steering, silver, 13090 miles, £4000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

TACUMA, 1.6 SX, 2006, abs brakes cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering sports seats tinted glass traction control trip computer front armrest colour coded bumpers, silver, 36703 miles, £4000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

A6, 1.9 TDI 130 SE, 2005, blue, 122000 miles, £6000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

A6, 2.7 TD QUATTRO SPORT, 2002, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloy cds cd player central locking cruise control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering sports seats tinted glass traction control trip computer front armrest colour coded bumpers, silver, 78000 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

TACUMA, 1.6 SX, 2006, abs brakes cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power steering remote central locking, blue, 30509 miles, £3000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FATI

500, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning electric windows immobiliser power steering, minimal grey, 30780 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

MULTIPI, Multijet Eleganza, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering remote central locking, blue, 15000 miles, £8000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

MULTIPI, 2.0, 2008, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering reverse parking aid, black, 11653 miles, £6200, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

MULTIPI, Multijet Dynamic Plus, 2010, abs brakes cd central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering reverse parking aid, orange, 32000 miles, £14000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

PANDA, 1.1 ACTIVE, 2008, cd player central locking electric windows immobiliser power steering tonneau cover twin airbags, silver, 7161 miles, £4000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

PANDA, Dynamic, 2005, abs brakes cd player drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering front fog lights immobiliser seat points adjustable steering column, white, 50 miles, £6000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GS, 300 SE AUTO, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows heated seats immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation, silver, 32561 miles, £13000, Ashford, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GS, 300 SE AUTO, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows heated seats immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation, silver, 32561 miles, £13000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

RANGE ROVER, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic cd player central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows heated seats immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid, black, 11653 miles, £6200, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

RANGE ROVER, 2002, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows heated seats immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation, silver, 32000 miles, £14000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

LEXUS

GS, 300 SE AUTO, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows heated seats immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation, silver, 32561 miles, £13000, Ashford, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GS, 300 SE AUTO, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows heated seats immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation, silver, 32561 miles, £13000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

IS, 2.0 200 LE (Limited Edition), 2003, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power steering reverse parking aid, black, 11653 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

IS, 2.2 220D, 2008, velvet black, 32929 miles, £14000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

IS, 250 Sport, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels central locking climate control electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, blue, 10 miles, £1500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

IS, 250 SR AUTO, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning automatic transmission cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking remote controls, black, 27806 miles, £14000, Ashford, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

LS, 250 SR AUTO, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning automatic transmission cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking remote controls, black, 27806 miles, £14000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

SCUDO, Combi 9 Seat LWB A/C METALLIC REAR PARK, 2010, air conditioning cd player diesel drivers airbag electric windows metallic paint power steering, black, 55 miles, £10000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

QUBO, Multijet Dynamic, 2010, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, blue, 10 miles, £1500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

QUBO, Multijet Active, 2007, abs brakes electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering split folding rear seats trip computer remote central locking, met grey, 100 miles, £1500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

SCUDO, Combi 9 Seat LWB A/C METALLIC REAR PARK, 2010, air conditioning cd player diesel drivers airbag electric windows metallic paint power steering, black, 55 miles, £10000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

SCUDO, 1.6 COMFORT R1 Call Waeheeda 07825670994, 2010, abs brakes cd player diesel drivers airbag electric windows metallic paint power steering, black, 55 miles, £10000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

SCUDO, 1.6 CONFORT R1 Call Waeheeda 07825670994*, 2010, abs brakes cd player diesel drivers airbag electric windows metallic paint power steering, black, 55 miles, £10000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

SCUDO, 1.6 CONFORT R1 Call Waeheeda 07825670994**, 2010, abs brakes cd player diesel drivers airbag electric windows metallic paint power steering, black, 55 miles, £10000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

SCUDO, 1.6 CONFORT R1 Call Waeheeda 07825670994***, 2010, abs brakes cd player diesel drivers airbag electric windows metallic paint power steering, black, 55 miles, £10000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

SCUDO, 1.6 CONFORT R1 Call Waeheeda 07825670994****, 2010, abs brakes cd player diesel drivers airbag electric windows metallic paint power steering, black, 55 miles, £10000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

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SCUDO, 1.6 CONFORT R1 Call Waeheeda 07825670994*****+, 2010, abs brakes cd player diesel drivers airbag electric windows metallic paint power steering, black, 55 miles, £10000, Ramsgate, 0844 856



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REPRESENTATIVE EXAMPLE SWIFT SZ2 3 DOOR	
41 monthly payments	£169.33
Final payment	£3,640
Cash price	£9,995

Dealer deposit contribution	£500
Total amount of credit	£9,495
Purchase fee [†]	£10
Credit facility fee [†]	£280

Total amount payable	£11,251.86
Duration of agreement	43 months
Representative APR	5.4%
Interest rate (fixed)	4.07%



*Special offer price of £9,995 available on Swift SZ2 3 door only. Low monthly payments available across the Swift range. [†]Included in the monthly payments and final payment. Finance available subject to status, Indemnities may be required. For full details please contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Suzuki Finance reserves the right to withdraw or amend this offer without notice or prior warning. The offer is available to customers within the UK (excludes Channel Islands and Isle of Man). Suzuki Finance, part of Black Horse Group, St William House, Tresillian Terrace, Cardiff CF10 5BH. This offer is subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st April 2011 and 30th June 2011 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. The Swift 1.2 M/T model falls into Government Vehicle Excise Band C at £30 from year 2 onwards, first year free. Engine start button and Bluetooth capability is available on SZ4 models only. All prices and specifications are correct at time of going to press.

Model shown is the Swift SZ2 3 door M/T available at £9,995* on the road (metallic paint at £399).

Swift range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): urban from 41.5 (6.8) to 46.3 (6.1), extra urban from 57.6 (4.9) to 64.2 (4.4), combined from 50.4 (5.6) to 56.5 (5.0). Official CO₂ emissions from 129g/km to 116g/km.

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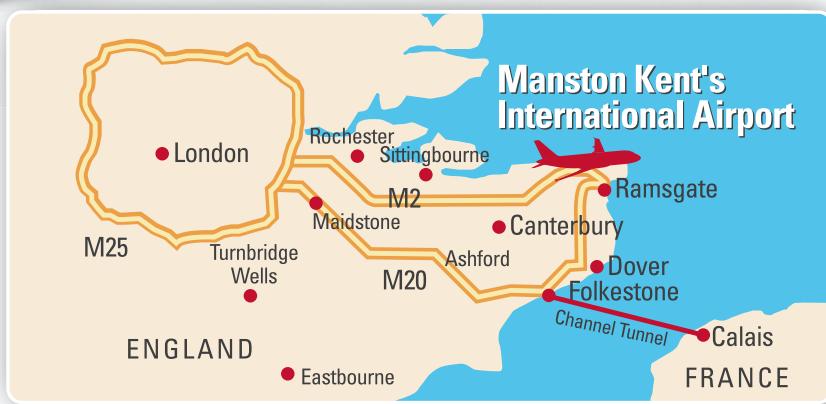
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